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Characters

Sunclan:

Leader: Branchstar - a white tom with brown paws, ears, and tail tip (Berrypaw)

Deputy: Stormcloud - light gray tom with black stripes (Gingerpaw)

Medicine cat: Ivyleaf - black and white she-cat with green eyes

Warriors:
Smokefur - dark gray tom with a short tail (Lionpaw)
Flameheart - ginger she-cat with green eyes (Briarpaw)
Goldenflower - ginger and white she-cat

Apprentices:
Gingerpaw - ginger and white she-cat
Lionpaw - yellow tom
Berrypaw - light brown tabby she-cat
Briarpaw - brown and white she-cat

Queens:
Mistyberry - gray and cream she-cat (Fishkit - cream colored tom)

Snowdrop - white she-cat with black spots on her pelt (Moonkit - gray and white she-kit, Reedkit - black tom, Bluekit - blue-ish gray she-kit, Cloudkit - white tom)

Cloudclan:

Leader: Whitestar - big white tom (Rosepaw)

Deputy: Dustfur - big dusty brown tom

Medicine cat: Cherrystem - red-ish brown she-cat with black spots on her pelt (Rainpaw)

Warriors:
Mouseears - brown and white she-cat with small ears
Thorntail - gray and white tom
Nightpelt - black tom

Apprentices:
Squirrelpaw - russet dark ginger she-cat
Blazepaw - yellow tom with light ginger stripes
Rosepaw - brown she-cat
Rainpaw - light gray she-cat

Chapter 1

[image]

A ginger and white she-cat crept forward slowly. A strong familiar scent wafted towards her. A small brown mouse scurried into view. She bunched her muscles and leaped forward in a graceful movement. The mouse lay dead under paws as she gave it a swift and painless bite to the neck.

Suddenly, a gray tabby tom padded up to her from nearby bushes. "Nice catch!" he meowed. The young she-cat purred, "Thank you Stormcloud." The tom, Stormcloud, gave her a curt nod. The she-cat quickly picked her mouse up as he led the way back to camp.

When they arrived cats were everywhere. The she-cat knew every cat she saw. All of these cats were her clanmates.

A small blue-ish gray kit stumbled up to her. "Did you catch that?" the kit mewed. The she-cat nodded and set her mouse on top of the fresh-kill pile. The kit scrambled over to a white queen with black spots. "Did you see the big mouse Gingerpaw caught Snowdrop?" the kit meowed excitedly.

The queen, Snowdrop, nodded, "Yes I did, but now its time for a nap." The kit grumbled but obediently followed her mother into the nursery. The ginger and white she-cat, Gingerpaw, turned to see a ginger she-cat standing beside her.

Gingerpaw looked up at the newcomer. "What's up Flameheart," she meowed. The ginger she-cat, Flameheart, rolled her eyes. "Don't ask what's up to your mother," she growled. Gingerpaw laughed, "Okay Flameheart."

Flameheart shoved Gingerpaw lightly, "So when are you becoming a warrior?" Gingerpaw shrugged, "I took my assessment yesterday and I passed it but I don't know when Branchstar is going to make me a warrior." Flameheart licked her ear, "I'm sure it will

be soon."

Gingerpaw hoped so. She had trained hard to be the best warrior in Sunclan. But she had some difficulty in doing so. He original mentor, Snowdrop, had kits so her mate, Stormcloud, had to take over as Gingerpaw's mentor.

Even though she had a few switching between mentors she still learned everything she needed to know. She was ready to become a warrior of Sunclan.

Chapter 2

[image]

A russet dark ginger she-cat shuffled her paws excitedly. A group of cats were circled around a huge white tom sitting on top of a large boulder. A young brown she-cat scowled at her from across the clearing but the dark ginger cat didn't care.

Today she would become a warrior. That brown she-cat would have to listen to her now.

A commanding yowl broke through the she-cat's thoughts. The big white tom looked at her through the crowd of cats. "Squirrelpaw and Blazepaw please step forward," he meowed.

The ginger she-cat, Squirrelpaw, eagerly followed a yellow tom with ginger stripes up to the big rock.

Squirrelpaw could barely stay still as the white tom started the ceremony. "We gather here to today to make two apprentices warriors. I, Whitestar, leader of Clouclan call upon my warrior ancestors to look down on these two apprentices. They have trained hard to learn the ways of your noble code I commented as warriors there turn."

"Squirrelpaw do you promise to uphold the warrior code and protect your clan even at the cost of your life?"

Squirrelpaw nodded solemnly, "I do."

The white tom, Whitestar, nodded with aporoval, "Then by the powers of Starclan I give you your warrior name. Squirrelpaw you will now be known as Squirrelleap. We welcome you as a full warrior of Clouclan."

Squirrelleap licked Whitestar's shoulder as he touched his nose to her head. Then she watched quietly as her brother, Blazepaw,

became Blazeclaw. Then the clan began to yell the names of the new warriors. "Squirrelleap! Blazeclaw!"

Squirrelleap puffed her chest out with pride. All of the horrible memories from her past melted away at that moment. She was finally happy.

As the clan began to break up a gray she-cat ran up to her. "How does it feel? To be a warrior I mean," she meowed. Squirrelleap purred, "Amazing!"

Then a red-ish brown spotted she-cat called to the gray she-cat. The gray she-cat sighed, "I have to go, Cherrystem is calling for me, but we can talk more later." Squirrelleap nodded as the gray she-cat bounded over to Cherrystem.

Squirrelleap was surprised when a black tom padded up to her. "Whitestar said for you to join my border patrol," he meowed. Squirrelleap nodded and followed him and a brown and white she-cat into the forest.

The scent of prey and plants filled her nose as she padded through the forest. She winced as brambles scraped through her pelt. She heard quiet voices ahead where the border was. She gasped in excitement as she recognized a familiar voice.

Squirrelleap pulled ahead of the patrol to see three Sunclan warriors checking the border. One of them was her sister, Gingerpaw. The black tom and the brown and white she-cat quickly caught up to her.

Each cat gave each other hostile looks except for Gingerpaw and Squirrelleap. "Hi Squirrelpaw!" Gingerpaw meowed in delight. "I'm Squirrelleap now," Squirrelleap meowed proudly. Gingerpaw purred, "I have my warrior name too. I'm Gingerspot now."

Squirrelleap was about to congratulate her sister when the black tom called for her. "Bye Squirrelleap!" Gingerspot meowed as Squirrelleap followed her clanmates back to camp.

The brown and white she-cat gave her a stern look when they

were out of sight from the border. "Your a warrior now Squirrelleap. You can't be acting like a kit and talking to your sister all the time," the brown and white she-cat growled. Squirrelleap nodded, "Ok Mouseears."

When they finally reached camo the sun was already shattering to set. Blazeclaw walked past her with a shove. Squirrelleap whirled around to face him. "We are warriors now so you can't treat me like a kit anymore," she spat in his face. He said nothing as he padded over to the camp entrance.

Ever since the clans were first made Blazeclaw and Squirrelleap hated each other. Partly because Squirrelleap was getting back at him for being there fathers favorite and partly because he was just a pain in her tail.

She followed him over to the camp entrance to start her long vigil. She looked up at the stars and wondered if any cat was looking down on her.

Chapter 3

[image]

A gray and white kit stumbled up to a black and white she-cat with green eyes. The she-cat greeted her with a warm purr. "Shouldn't you be in the nursery Moonkit," the black and white she-cat meowed. Moonkit nodded, "Yes but I wanted to come watch you Ivyleaf."

Ivyleaf purred, "I'm not doing anything right now so why don't you go play with your littermates." Moonkit grumbled but obeyed. She found her littermates, Reedkit, Bluekit, and Cloudkit, playing outside the nursery with a ball of moss.

Moonkit really didn't like to play kit games with her littermates. She was different. She liked plants. Her littermates didn't like to talk to her anyways. They all thought she was wierd, except for her brother Reedkit.

Moonkit was in her own thoughts when a patrol padded into camp with a strange cat between them. Her father, Stormcloud, who was also the clan deputy was in the lead of the patrol.

Moonkit saw a glimpse of red-ish brown fur between the patrol. She could tell the cat was young, like an apprentice but he was tough.

Moonkit's mother, Snowdrop, rapped her fluffy tail around her four kits. Cats were already out of their dens giving the stranger hostile looks.

A strong brown and white tom leaped down from a tree to greet the patrol. "What do we have here?" the tom asked in a deep commanding voice.

A golden and white she-cat, who she recognized as Goldenflower, gave the small tom a shove forward. "We found him sniffing around

on our territory," she meowed.

The red-ish brown tom looked up at the brown and white tom, unbothered by the hostile stares around him.

"I'm Red a former loner. But when I heard of the clans I had to see for myself. I have come here to ask if I could stay in you camp for one night to see what clan life is all about," he meowed confidently.

Hisses and growls irrupted from the cats around him. The brown and white tom raised his tail for silence. "I will have to discuss this with my deputy before I give you my answer," he meowed. Moonkit watched as Stormcloud followed the tom over to the base of the tree the tom had leaped down from.

A moment later he and Stormcloud turned back to Red. "I have made my decision. Red, you may stay in our camp for one night only then you must leave," the tom meowed.

Moonkit heard a cat hiss, "No we can't just let loners into our camp Branchstar!" A few others nodded in agreement. Branchstar lashed his tail, "I am your leader and I have decided this. So you either agree to it or leave." The camp went silent at his words.

Stormcloud gestured over a a light brown apprentice. "Berrypaw will be showing you around camp," Stormcloud meowed to Red. Berrypaw happily led Red away. Moonkit looked up at Snowdrop. "Why was every cat so mad?" she asked curiously.

Snowdrop flicked Moonkit's ear with her tail. "Some cats don't like every decision a clan leader makes. But you don't need to worry about all of that. Now its time for a nap," her mother meowed.

Moonkit padded into the nursery but realized her mother had gone to the fresh-kill pile to get some prey. She was going to wait for Snowdrop but her eyelids began to get heavy. Moonkit climbed into her nest and quickly fell asleep.

Chapter 4

[image]

Gingerspot stared at the red-ish brown loner. He looked strong and she admired his confidence. One of the apprentices, Briarpaw, sat beside her.

Briarpaw nudged her, "Did you even hear what I just said." Gingerspot looked at her guitly, "No sorry." Briarpaw rolled her eyes, "Anyways do you want to come hunt with me and Flameheart."

Gingerspot shook her head, "I can't I have to go on a hunting patrol with Smokefur." Briarpaw looked disappointed but nodded and bounded over to Flameheart.

Gingerspot padded over to where Smokefur was speaking to his mate, Mistyberry. When he saw her he quickly nodded and pulled away from Mistyberry to go get his apprentice, Lionpaw.

Smokefur returned with Lionpaw and they set out into the forest. Lionpaw slowed down to run beside Gingerspot. "I have a weird feeling about Red," he meowed. Gingerspot gave him a bewildered look, "Why? He seems so strong and confident. He would be a great addition to the clan."

Lionpaw didn't respond as they padded through the forest. Smokefur suddenly stopped to prick his ears. The dark gray tom dropped into a hunting crouch and slowly crept forward. Gingerspot watched as the tom bunched his muscles and leaped into the air. A squeak came from the mouse as Smokefur gave it a swift killing bite.

He picked his catch up and buried it under a nearby tree. Gingerspot padded away as Lionpaw followed his mentor somewhere else to practice his hunting technique.

Gingerspot prowled through the forest. A crow squacked above her. Then she saw movement in the corner of her eye. She dropped down into a crouch as a big fat squirrel chewed on a nut.

She crept forward quietly. She made sure to set her paws down lightly and to keep her tail off the ground to not alert her prey. But then she heard a painful crack as she stepped on a twig.

The squirrel looked up from its nut and started to scurry away. But Gingerspot wasn't giving up on this prey. She sped after the tiny animal. The squirrel was fat and lazy so it didn't get far before Gingerspot pounced on it and gave it a killing bite to its neck.

She started to pad back to find Smokefur and Lionpaw when Red jumped out in front if her. Gingerspot dropped her squirrel in surprise. "What are you doing out here? Branchstar told you to stay with Berrypaw," she meowed.

A heartbeat later Berrypaw padded up beside him. "Hi Gingerspot. Me and Red were just heading back to camp," Berrypaw meowed cheerfully and began to lead the way back to camp.

Gingerspot stared after the two cats, but she mainly was looking at Red. His muscles rippled when he walked and his fur was smooth and shiny. She shook the thought away. Red wasn't part of the clan and he might never be.

Gingerspot then quickly found Smokefur and Lionpaw talking beside a bramble bush. "Me too. I don't trust him one bit. But we have to trust Branchstar," Smokefur was saying when Gingerspot walked up to the two toms.

Lionpaw purred, "The queens will love that." Gingerspot purred under her mouthful of squirrel. Smokefur grabbed up two mice while Lionpaw picked up a grouse.

The patrol padded back to camp with prey in there jaws. As they padded through the camp entrance a cream colored tom-kit, Fishkit, bounded up to Smokefur, who is his father.

"Can I have one of your mice Smokefur?" Fishkit mewed eagerly.

Smokefur nodded and dropped one mouse on the fresh-kill pile and he dropped the other mouse in front of Mistyberry. Gingerspot and Lionpaw set there catches on the pile.

Snowdrop came up to Gingerspot and licked her lips when she saw the fat squirrel. "Did you catch that?" the queen meowed. Gingerspot nodded, "Yes, I caught it for you and the kits." Snowdrop purred in delight and grabbed the squirrel and walked over to the nursery.

Gingerspot's paws ached and it was only sunhigh. She looked around the camp in one slow motion. She sighed. She didn't think being a warrior was so exhausting until now.

Chapter 5

[image]

Squirrelleap yawned. The sun hadn't even risen and Whitestar was taking Squirrelleap and Rosepaw on a special patrol. But Squirrelleap had a bad feeling about this. Everything felt different.

She followed her leader across their territory. Until they stopped by the border with Sunclan. Squirrelleap was about to go mark the borders when Whitestar stepped over the border like there was nothing there.

Squirrelleap and Rosepaw gasped. "What are you doing?" Squirrelleap growled. Whitestar's gaze was emotionless as he responded, "I just have some business to take care of."

Rosepaw followed him over the border with no problem. Squirrelleap hesitated before following them. This wasn't right.

She followed Whitestar in silence. How could he cross another clans border without even giving them a warning? And what business did he have to take care of? Every step they got closer to Sunclan's camp Squirrelleap got more suspicious of Whitestar.

Until finally the camp came into view. Squirrelleap held her breath as Whitestar padded up to the camp entrance. But then she sighed in relief as he stopped at the entrance. He then curiously looked inside.

"What are we even doing here? What is your important business?" Squirrelleap asked in a harsh tone. Whitestar turned to look at her, "Come over here beside me and be patient."

Squirrelleap padded forward cautiously. She sat beside Whitestar in silence. She became bored and tired as the sun began to finally rise. Then suddenly she heard a young commanding voice call for a meeting.

"That's not Branchstar's voice," she meowed frantically. Whitestar purred in excitement, "Of course its not. This is when the fun begins."

Squirrelleap looked at Rosepaw for reassurance but the apprentice was bouncing up and down in excitement at Whitestar's words. Squirrelleap listened as the clan inside the camp began to gather around the your voice in confusion.

"What are you doing?" Branchstar growled in a low commanding growl. She heard other cats protest before a young cat yowled for silence. "I have something to tell every cat," the cat meowed. Squirrelleap shifted uncomfortablely as the clan murmured uneasily.

"There has been a secret that has been hidden for way too long. And now its time for it to finally come out," the cat meowed. "Mistyberry don't you have something to say," the young cat urged.

Squirrelleap gasped as she heard Mistyberry's strong and confident voice. "I have no idea what your talking about," the she-cat meowed confidently. Squirrelleap couldn't see the young cat addressing the cat but she could tell he was doing his best to get a point across to the clan.

"That's mouse-dung. You know absolutely know what I'm talking about," he meowed. "Why don't you tell me what you mean," Mistyberry replied in a level tone.

Squirrelleap's eyes widened in horror as Whitestar stepped into Sunclan's camp and said lightly, "You have my kit and I want him back."

Chapter 6

[image]

Moonkit huddled beside Bluekit as a huge white tom marched across the camp to stand directly in front of Mistyberry. The gray and cream she-cat looked at him boldly. Moonkit's heart ached with simpathy for Fishkit as he fearly hid behind Mistyberry.

"He is not your kit at all," Mistyberry spat. Smokefur jumped between the two cats to glare at Whitestar. "Leave her alone. He is not your kit he is mine," he growled.

Whitestar smiled evily, "He is mine after you hear my story." Moonkit leaned forward to listen as the white tom sat down and rapped his tail around his body.

"Mistyberry became my mate and had my kits but only Fishkit survived and now I want him for myself," Whitestar meowed.

Smokefur turned to Mistyberry who was giving Whitestar a furiously glare. "Is this true?" Smokefur meowed.

Mistyberry ignored her mate and stomped over to Whitestar, "You forced me to have your kits. You said that if I didn't have your kits then you would kill me and my kin. Then you told me every kit that wasn't a tom you would kill."

Moonkit gasped along with the whole clan. Smokefur glared at Whitestar with such a look that it made Moonkit shiver.

"You better take your kit out of this camp before I claw all of your fur off," Smokefur hissed with clenched teeth.

Whitestar padded over to Fsihkit who was looking up at him curiously. "Its time to go to your real home," he meowed and picked up To shoot by the scruff. Whitestar then beckoned to Red to follow him.

"I knew he couldn't be trusted! He was working for Whitestar this whole time," Moonkit heard Lionpaw yowl. Other cats meowed their agreements as Whitestar, Fishkit, and Red padded out of camp.

Moonkit heard a cry behind her. She turned her head to see Mistyberry on the ground and covering her face with her paws. Smokefur rushed over to his mate to comfort her.

Branchstar turned to Goldenflower and Stormcloud. "Make sure they get off our territory," he growled. The two cats nodded and trotted after the Cloudclan cats.

Moonkit watched as Smokefur guided Mistyberry over to a quiet spot where she could mourn the loss of her kit. It surprised her that Smokefur didn't seem at all mad with Mistyberry's life or death decision.

Snowdrop curled her tail around her kits. "Its time to stay in the nursery for a while until this dies down," her mother meowed.

Moonkit trotted after her littermates into the nursery. Then it finally hit her. Fishkit, her friend, was gone.

Chapter 7

[image]

Gingerspot stared at Red in shock as he followed Whitestar into the forest. How could he do something so treacherous? Then the reason hit her. He had met Whitestar. She knew that because Whitestar *was* her father.

When he wanted to start his own clan he had left Gingerspot and her mother, Flameheart, to fend for themselves. He had taken her sister and brother, Squirrelleap and Blazeclaw, to the other clan. But she knew that he only liked Blazeclaw and he hated Squirrelleap for still loving Gingerspot and Flameheart.

But it was over. He was never her father and never would be.

Gingerspot snapped out of her thoughts as Lionpaw bounded over to her with a triumphant look on his face. "I told you he couldn't be trusted," the tom meowed.

Gingerspot purred, "I know I should have listened to you." Lionpaw purred too and then trotted over to Briarpaw, leaving Gingerspot all alone.

Gingerspot shuffled her paws in the dirt, wondering what to do now. Her heart ached as she caught sight of Mistyberry grieving the loss of her kit. Fishkit wasn't dead but he would never sleep next to his mother again.

The ginger and white she-cat jumped as Flameheart stroked her fur with her long tail. Gingerspot purred at her mother's smooth strokes.

"I need to tell you something," Flameheart meowed with a slight edge of nervousness. Gingerspot looked at her mother curiously, "What is it?"

Flameheart took a deep breath and then meowed, "I'm expecting Branchstar's kits."

It felt like a huge wave had crashed down on top of Gingerspot. She began to sputter, "That's g...great!" Flameheart purred loudly, "I'm excited to be finally moving on away from Whitestar."

Gingerspot nodded and watched her mother happily walk over to Branchstar to deliver the news. Gingerspot hung her head sadly. She knew this was awesome for Flameheart because she was finally moving forward with her life but it didn't feel to great for Gingerspot.

Gingerspot sighed and walked out into the forest, not really knowing where she was going. Her paws just kept on carrying her somewhere. Until she realized she was at the border with the twolegplace.

It wasn't a big camp but it was big enough for a cat to get lost in it. She had heard stories of fat kittypets sitting in the twoleg dens and eating dry pellets for food. She shivered. She hated the sound of a twoleg touching her.

She was turning around to head back to camp when she heard a cry for help. It sounded like a young she-cat, and she wasn't to far away.

Gingerspot followed the sound of the cats cries cautiously until she saw a small dark tortoiseshell she-cat trapped inside a small twoleg den.

Gingerspot stopped to think about what she was doing. She sniffed the air for twolegs but all she could smell was the stench of crow-food and Thunderpath.

The ginger and white she-cat approached the small den carefully. It looked like it was big enough for two cats to sleep in it. But it really wasn't a twoleg den.

Then she the cat huddled against the back wall of the den. But what was strange to Gingerspot was that the opening to the den was

wide open unlike the big twoleg dens which were shut all the time.

Gingerspot took a step forward. The tortoiseshell she-cat shifted uncomfortablely inside the den. "Why don't you get out through this opening?" Gingerspot called up to the she-cat.

"I injured my leg so I can't walk without someone to help me," the small cat meowed fearfully. Gingerspot held her breath as she jumped up into the twoleg den. The tortoiseshell she-cat backed away from her.

Gingerspot approached the she-cat wearly. "I'm not going to hurt you. In here to help you get out of here," Gingerspot meowed. Suddenly the opening to the den slammed shut.

A young twoleg was standing at the entrance giving praise to the tortoiseshell she-cat. Gingerspot turned to the small cat and growled fiercely, "What have you done!"

Chapter 8

[image]

Gingerspot sat staring outside the small twoleg den. The dark tortoiseshell she-cat kept on trying to apologize but Gingerspot ignored her.

She was trapped in this Starclan forsaken place and she had no way out. She tried yowling for help but she stopped when she realized no cat was listening.

The tortoiseshell she-cat suddenly approached her. Gingerspot hissed a warning. The she-cat sunk back fearfully. "I really am sorry. But I have a good reason why I did this to you," the young she-cat meowed. Gingerspot gave her a cold look, "You have no good reason for trapping a cat in a twoleg den. No matter what you say, it will not change the fact that what you have done might change my life."

The she-cat looked at her with sorrow in her eyes, "I know and I am forever sorry. But I must tell you my reason."

Gingerspot sighed, "Whatever, just get on with it." The she-cat took a deep breath and began, "My twoleg has a huge den but her den has been attached by mice. Myself cannot catch them all, so she decided that more cats would do the job. I don't fully understand why but she puts me in this cage and leaves me here for a while. One time I didn't do what she wanted and she starved me for three whole sunrises. So if I don't do what she wants me to, which is capture cats for her, then she will kill me."

Gingerspot suddenly felt sorry for this cat. She had no other choice but to obey her twoleg. Gingerspot shivered. She would never do anything for a twoleg, even if her life counted on it.

The tortoiseshell she-cat layed down miserably. "I wish I could get away from my twoleg but I just don't know how," she meowed.

Gingerspot suddenly had an idea. "Well today your going to learn how," Gingerspot meowed.

The young cat looked at her in confusion. "How? There's no way of getting out of here," she mewed. Gingerspot stuck her paw out of the cage. There was a small latch on the outside which felt like it could be lifted. But how?

Then Gingerspot looked at the young she-cat. "Come over here and stick your paw out beside mine," Gingerspot ordered. The she-cat shuffled over to Gingerspot's side and stuck her paw out beside hers. "Do you feel the latch?" Gingerspot asked.

The she-cat nodded. Gingerspot nodded, "Good. Now on the count of three we are going to use our paws to try and lift the latch." The tortoiseshell she-cat nodded. Gingerspot took a deep breath and started to count, "Okay. One, two, three!"

Gingerspot and the other she-cat used all of their muscles to lift the latch. When she thought she couldn't push anymore the latch flew up and released the other opening door.

Gingerspot and the she-cat pushed open the doors of the den. The ginger and white she-cat immediately leaped out of the den and started to run back to Sunclan territory, when she realized the young cat wasn't following her. The she-cat was staring in amazement at the wide open world around her.

Gingerspot purred and yowled over to the young cat, "Come with me to be a part of a clan." The she-cat brightened up and ran over to Gingerspot. Gingerspot purred, "What's your name?"

"I'm Cali. I have heard of Cloudclan before. I've decided I want to be apart of that clan," the young she-cat meowed. Gingerspot seemed surprised but meowed, "Well then that is where I'll take you. But by the way I'm Gingerspot. Nice to meet you Cali."

Chapter 9

Squirrelleap stretched out beside Rainpaw in the sunhigh heat. She yawned tiredly. Rainpaw purred, "You seem tired." Squirrelleap nodded through another yawn, "I am. Whitestar sent me on that early patrol to Sunclan this morning. Then he made me go on a patrol with Blazeclaw."

Rainpaw shook her head, "You never stop do you." "Nope," Squirrelleap purred. Rainpaw laughed.

The gray she-cat stopped laughing as a cream colored tom-kit bounced up to the two she-cats. "Hi I'm Fishkit," he meowed. Squirrelleap looked up at him. She shivered as she realized the kit had the same amber eyes that Whitestar had.

"I'm Rainpaw and this is Squirrelleap," Rainpaw meowed. Squirrelleap flicked her ears in thanks. Fishkit sat down beside them, "I'm going to be an apprentice in a moon." "That's awesome!" Squirrelleap purred.

"Hey, so I Whitestar was telling me that you and Blazeclaw are my half siblings," Fishkit meowed. Squirrelleap stiffened. She was about to give the kit an unfriendly reply when the hunting patrol padded into camp with a young dark tortoiseshell she-cat between them.

Dustfur padded up to the patrol and gave the she-cat a hostile glare. "Why did you bring this kittypet into our camp?" the deputy growled to the lead cat, Thorntail. "She wanted to speak with Whitestar," Thorntail meowed.

Dustfur turned to Rosepaw and flicked his tail for the apprentice to go get Whitestar. Squirrelleap watched as Rosepaw dashed away. A few moments later she returned with the huge white tom.

Whitestar gave the tortoiseshell she-cat a curt nod for her to

speak. "I came to ask if I could join your clan," she meowed, while shaking slightly. Whitestar turned his big white head to look at Dustfur. There was no facial expression on the dusty brown toms face.

Whitestar nodded, "Fine, you can become an apprentice. But you have a lot to learn in just six moons." The young she-cat nodded vigorously. Thorntail hissed irritatedly, but didn't say a word.

Whitestar bounded over to the clan rock and leaped on top of it gracefully. "Let all cats old enough to catch there own prey gather around to hear my words," he yowled.

Squirrelleap rose to her paws with a huff and slowly made her way over to gather around the Cloudclan leader. "We have a new cat that has come to be apart of our clan and we will gladly welcome her as a Cloudclan apprentice," Whitestar yowled and beckoned the kittypet with his tail to step forward.

Squirrelleap watched as the young she-cat nervously padded forward. Whitestar leaned towards the kittypet and mewed quitely, "What's your name?" "Cali," the she-cat meowed even more quietly than Whitestar had done.

The white tom straightened up to address the clan once more. "Cali, from this day forward until you receive your warrior name you will be known as Hollypaw. Nightpelt will be your mentor." The black tom excitedly padded over to Hollypaw to touch noses with her. The clan then began to cheer, "Hollypaw! Hollypaw!" Squirrelleap purred at the sight her clan welcoming the new cat with such joy. Maybe Cloudclan was finally becoming a real clan.

Oh by the way I will be adding a character list after every ten chapters so it doesn't get so confusing and stuff like that. I really hope y'all are enjoying it! Sorry if the chapters are so short...still trying to learn how to lengthen them out!

Chapter 10

[image]

Dark shadows were cast across the clearing as the sun began to set. A cool breeze ruffled Moonkit's soft kit fur. The wind had a hint of icy coldness as leaf-fall got nearer and nearer.

Moonkit stumbled after Ivyleaf into the medicine den. The sharp tang of herbs filled her nose and mouth. She sighed. She loved the smell of herbs. Ivyleaf turned to look at her sharply.

"Your not my apprentice yet so you have to go sleep in the nursery with you mother," the black and white she-cat meowed. "But I don't want to," Moonkit grumbled. Ivyleaf pushed her out of the den with her thin tail and gave her a stern look.

Moonkit ducked her head sadly and bounded over to the nursery where her mother and littermates were already settling down in their nest.
The gray and white kit climbed in beside her sister, Bluekit, and rapped her body up tightly.

Moonkit sighed deeply as she heard the slow rise and fall of her mother's chest. Snowdrop's soft fur rubbed against her back. Soon enough Moonkit was lured into a deep sleep.

Moonkit opened her eyes to a open clearing. Very similar to Sunclan's camp. Actually it was Sunclan's camp. Then out of no where she saw cats fighting. She heard bodies slamming against bodies. Claws meeting teeth.

She could see cats but she couldn't make out who they were, except for one cat that made her gasp. It was Gingerspot.

The young warrior was grappling with another warrior that Moonkit couldn't see. Gingerspot grabbed the cat in her claws and threw it somewhere else. Moonkit relaxed as she saw her friend was safe until she saw a huge cat, probably a tom, leap at Gingerspot

and knock her to the ground.

Moonkit squeezed her eyes shut. Suddenly something warm and sticky touched her paws. Moonkit opened her eyes and gasped in horror as she saw what it was. Blood. Lots and lots of blood. She didn't even know where it was coming from as it flowed over her paws.

She yowled for her mother. For her father. Even for Gingerspot who she thought was nearby. But the battle scene had dispeared as the blood began to flow up to her chest.

Moonkit tried to stand on the tips of her paws but she couldn't move. She was frozen to the spot. Moonkit squealed as the blood lapped at her muzzle.

She shut her eyes as the blood flowed over her and engulfed her. Moonkit woke up in her nest with moss scattered everywhere and Snowdrop standing over her. Her littermates were staring at her with fear and concern in their eyes.

Moonkit got to her paws and looked up at her mother. Snowdrop licked Moonkit's ears, "It was just a bad dream." Moonkit layed back down beside her littermates and her mother and thought to herself, *That was not just a bad dream.*

Characters part 2

Sunclan:

Leader: Branchstar - white tom with brown paws, ears, and tail tip (Berrypaw)

Deputy: Stormcloud - light gray tom with black stripes

Medicine cat: Ivyleaf - black and white she-cat with green eyes

Warriors:

Smokefur - dark gray tom with a short stubby tail (Lionpaw)
Goldenflower - white and ginger she-cat
Mistyberry - gray and cream she-cat
Gingerspot - long haired ginger and white she-cat

Apprentices:

Briarpaw - brown and white she-cat
Lionpaw - yellow tom
Berrypaw - light brown tabby she-cat

Queens:

Flameheart - dark ginger she-cat

Snowdrop - white she-cat with black spots on her pelt (Moonkit - gray and white she-kit, Reedkit - black tom, Bluekit - blue-ish gray she-kit, Cloudkit - white tom)

Cloudclan:

Leader: Whitestar - huge white tom (Rosepaw)

Deputy: Dustfur - dusty brown tom (Redpaw)

Medicine cat: Cherrystem - red-ish brown she-cat with black spots

on her pelt (Rainpaw)

Warriors:

Mouseears - brown and white she-cat with small ears
Thorntail - gray and white tom
Nightpelt - black tom (Hollypaw)
Blazeclaw - yellow tom with light ginger stripes
Squirrelleap - russet dark ginger she-cat

Apprentice:

Rosepaw - brown she-cat
Rainpaw - gray she-cat
Hollypaw - mostly black tortoiseshell she-cat
Redpaw - red-ish brown tom

Kits:

Fishkit - cream colored tom

So some of the character descriptions are not the exact same as the first character list but its fine. I just realized I didn't include the part where Red becomes an apprentice and I'm really sorry but yeah he is officially in the clan. Oh and Dustfur is his mentor. Comment below on how y'all are liking the story so far!!!

Chapter 11

[image]

Gingerspot stretched out in leaf-fall sunlight. It had been half a moon since she had found Cali, who was now Hollypaw, in that horrible small twoleg den.

It was the gathering tonight and Gingerspot hoped she could go so she could see her sister. Berrypaw trotted over to her and sat down beside her.

"When will Branchstar announce who is going to the gathering?" the brown she-cat mewed. Gingerspot shrugged, "Probably before the sun fully sets."

Gingerspot and Berrypaw sat and talked about different subjects until the sun finally began to set and Branchstar leaped on top of the big rock covering his den.

"Gather around the Sunrock to find out which cats are going to the gathering," the white and brown tom meowed. The clan began to gather slowly. Gingerspot trotted next to Berrypaw to sit in front of the Sunrock.

The Sunrock was a huge rock at the edge of the camp with a hole at the bottom to mark Branchstars den. The Sunclan leader looked down at his clanmates. "Stormcloud, Ivyleaf, Smokefur, Goldenflower, Gingerspot, and Lionpaw are going to the gathering tonight so get some rest before we set out," Branchstar meowed.

As the clan began to disperse Gingerspot heard Berrypaw growl to Briarpaw, "I can't believe Lionpaw is going instead of me." Gingerspot held back a chuckle. The small brown she-cat always wanted everything her brother had. It was amusing.

Gingerspot suddenly felt a cat brush against her. She turned to see Goldenflower, a ginger and white she-cat. "You need to start talking more to warriors than those silly apprentices," the she-cat purred.

Gingerspot purred, "Ok, do you want to share a mouse with me?" Goldenflower nodded and sat down as Gingerspot padded over to the fresh-kill pile to retreave a big juicy mouse.

The two she-cats sat down, side-by-side, to eagerly bite into the mouse. Gingerspot purred at the warm sensation that filled her mouth.

The mouse was soon gone, only leaving tiny bones behind. Gingerspot stood up and stretched. Her muscles were stiff as a cold wind swept through her pelt.

Leaf-fall was here and leaf-bare was on its way. Gingerspot trotted beside Goldenflower as Branchstar gathered the cats to leave for the gathering. The ginger and white warrior shivered as another cold breeze swept through pelt her down to her skin.

Gingerspot padded on steadily after her clanmates. The moon was almost at its highest peak when the cats reached the tree bridge.

She leaped onto the tree and slowly walked behind Goldenflower. Gingerspot leaped down beside Goldenflower onto the gathering island.

The scent of Cloudclan filled her nose as she padded into the clearing. She forgot that the gathering had very little cats sense there were only two clans at the time.

Gingerspot jumped in surprise as her sister batted her on the shoulder. The russet ginger she-cat had a playful look in her eyes. Gingerspot laughed as they both went down in a heap of fur.

Suddenly, claws sunk into her shoulder as she was hauled away from her sister. Gingerspot hissed when she saw that it was Blazeclaw.

"Go back to the nursery if your going to act like a kit," he growled. "Well look who's talking. Last time I checked you still haven't left the nursery," she spat.

The tabby ginger tom looked like he was about to leap at her when Branchstar yowled for the gathering to start. Gingerspot sat down

beside Squirrelleap who was giving Blazeclaw an angry glare.

"Hunting as been well in Sunclan even as leaf-bare gets near," the Sunclan leader meowed, "Also, Flameheart is expecting my kits." The brown and white leader puffed his chest out with pride as cats called out in congratulations.

Whitestar raised his tail for silence. "Prey has been plentiful and it always will be with Cloudclan's good hunters," the white tom growled. Gingerspot laughed as she saw Squirrelleap roll her eyes.

Branchstar flicked his tail as a goodbye to Whitestar as he gathered his clan together, but the ignorant Cloudclan leader just growled. Gingerspot dipped her head goodbye to Squirrelleap as she rushed over to follow her clanmates.

Gingerspot walked beside Goldenflower as they treked through the forest to there own territory.

Gingerspot sighed as the great big oaks in Sunclan territory stretched out above her head. The scent of ferns and other plants filled her nose as they got closer to camp.

Gingerspot's paws ached and throbbed as they padded into camp. The ginger and white she-cat went straight for her nest. She curled tightly into her soft moss and feathery nest as exhaustion began to pull her into a peaceful darkness.

Chapter 12

[image]

Dawn light filtered into the warriors den. Squirrelleap opened her eyes sleepily. The sun had just risen and cats started to stir. The russet ginger she-cat stood up and grunted as she stretched her stiff muscles.

She was tired and sore from the walk to the gathering island last night. Cold wind swept into the den, making her shiver.

Squirrelleap stepped out of the den into the cold air. Orange and yellow leaves were scattered around the camp. She purred as she saw Hollypaw jump onto a escaping leaf.

The dark tortoiseshell apprentice smiled as she saw her. Squirrelleap was about to go say hi when Nightpelt padded up to his apprentice.

The two cats then walked out of camp to go train leaving Squirrelleap alone in camp.

She decided she was going to go hunt. Even though she wasn't on any patrols. Squirrelleap trotted out of camp past Thorntail who was guarding camp.

The smells of pines filled her nose. She purred at the wonderful sights of her territory. Pine needles crunched underneath her paws as she walked through the forest.

She opened her mouth to the scent of squirrel. She dropped into a crouch as she saw the animal she was named after nibbling on an acorn. Squirrelleap crept forward slowly, making sure she didn't step on anything to alert the prey.

Suddenly the squirrel lifted its small head and darted away. "Mouse-dung!" Squirrelleap hissed. Then she heard a loud voice close by. The she-cat pricked her ears. She heard the loud, annoying voice of

Redpaw.

Squirrelleap followed his voice until she was close to the border with Sunclan. She peered over a bush to see the red-ish brown tom growling at two other cats.

She recognized them as Lionpaw and Briarpaw. "I already told you, we were not even close to tresspassing," Lionpaw growled. "Then what are you doing out here all alone without your mentors," Redpaw hissed.

"Because we can be trusted to not betray our clan to go join some other clan on the orders of another cat," Briarpaw spat. Redpaw's fur began to bristle.

Suddenly the tom leaped over the border onto the Sunclan she-cat. Squirrelleap rushed out from behind the bush. Lionpaw stared at Redpaw in shock as he tore into Briarpaw.

Squirrelleap dug her claws into Redpaw as he lunged for Brairpaw's throat. She dragged the fiery apprentice from the she-cat. Briarpaw had a long bloody scratch along her face but nothing too serious.

Squirrelleap dropped Redpaw on the ground near a nearby tree on Cloudclan's side. Then, out of now where a Sunclan patrol crashed through the undergrowth to the scene.

Mistyberry, who was the lead cat, rushed over to Briarpaw while the other two cats, Smokefur and Berrypaw, were giving the Cloudclan cats hostile glares.

"What happened?" Smokefur hissed. Squirrelleap gave Redpaw a furious glare, "This dumb apprentice attacked Briarpaw." Mistyberry turned her gaze to the tom and snarled.

"Cloudclan needs to discipline their apprentices," Smokefur hissed. Squirrelleap wanted to slap the gray tom but she simply dipped her head, "Redpaw is not my apprentice but I will make sure he gets a proper punishment." Smokefur nodded approvingly and guided his clanmates back to camp.

Squirrelleap shoved Redpaw harshly. "What were you thinking?"

she growled as they padded back to camp.

Redpaw shrugged, "Those apprentices are weak. They needed to be shown how strong a warrior should be. So I decided to show them." Squirrelleap cuffed him around the ear, "You stupid fur-ball. They are older and stronger than you so I wouldn't be talking."

The tom growled but didn't say a word.

When they padded into camp every cat turned to look at them. Squirrelleap heard murmurs as they saw Redpaw's scratches but she just kept on walking. She pushed through the lichen covering the leaders den.

Whitestar sat in his nest staring at his paws. He looked up as she entered with Redpaw at her side. "What is it that you need?" he meowed.

Squirrelleap pushed Redpaw in front of her, "This mouse-brain decided to attack a Sunclan apprentice when she wasn't doing anything wrong."

Whitestar looked down at Redpaw. "Is this true?" he meowed. Redpaw nodded, "Yes." The Cloudclan leader looked thoughtful before answering, "You will get a quarter moon of cleaning my nest since we have no elders."

Squirrelleap widened her eyes in shock, "He attacked an innocent cat! He needs more than just a quarter moon." Whitestar gave her an icy glare, "Are you giving your leader orders?"

The she-cat shook her head, "No Whitestar." "That's what I thought," he meowed. Squirrelleap followed Redpaw out of the den.

The apprentice gave her a triumphant look before passing away towards his den. Squirrelleap prickled with anger. She absolutely hated Whitestar.

Chapter 13

[image]

"Let all cats old enough to catch there own prey gather beneath the Sunrock," Branchstar yowled. Moonkit scampered out of the nursery. Usually she couldn't come out to watch clan meetings but today was a special day.

Moonkit and her brother, Reedkit, sat together at the back of the group of cats. Snowdrop sat next to them with Cloudkit and Bluekit on the other side of her.

"Briarpaw, please step forward," Branchstar meowed from the Sunrock. Moonkit strained to see the brown and white she-cat pad up to the Sunclan leader.

Branchstar raised his head to the sky, "I, Branchstar, leader of Sunclan call upon my warrior ancestors to look down on this apprentice. She has trained hard to learn the ways of your noble code and I commend her as warrior in her turn." He looked down at Briarpaw, "Briarpaw, do you promise to uphold the warrior code and protect your clan even at the cost of your own life?"

The she-cat nodded, "I do."

Branchstar nodded, "Then by the power of Starclan I give you your warrior name. Briarpaw you will now be known as Briarwing. Starclan honors your strength and loyalty and we welcome you as a full warrior of Sunclan."

Branchstar touched his nose to her head as she liked his shoulder. Moonkit joined in with the clan in yelling, "Briarwing! Briarwing!"

The brown and white she-cat puffed her chest out with pride. Moonkit longed to be an apprentice but she still had two more moons until that happened.

As the cats began to separate Moonkit snuck into the medicine den.

Ivyleaf was applying herbs to Lionpaw's paw when Moonkit walked in. "What happened?" she asked curiously.

Ivyleaf jumped at the sound of her voice but answered steadily, "Lionpaw stepped on a thorn so when I took it out I need to put herbs on it so the wound won't get infected."

Moonkit looked at the medicine cats herb store. "Can I help with anything?" she mewed. Ivyleaf shook her head, "Not until your an apprentice."

Moonkit grumbled but didn't say anything. She stomped out of the den and saw her littermates playing moss ball outside if the nursery. Moonkit sat down beside Snowdrop to watch them play with each other.

"Go play," her mother meowed. Moonkit shook her head. She just didn't like to play. "Why don't you like to play with them?" Snowdrop meowed. "I don't like moss ball," she mewed.

Snowdrop rolled her eyes, "You have never even played it before." Moonkit looked down at her paws. She really hadn't ever played moss ball before.

She sighed and got to her tiny paws. Moonkit padded over to where her littermates were playing with the soft ball of moss.

Reedkit stopped in mid leap as Moonkit padded over. "Can I please play moss ball with you all?" she meowed.

Reedkit's eyes widened at her statement. Cloudkit scowled, "We just finished our game of moss ball." Bluekit shoved Cloudkit lightly, "Can we play battle?" Reedkit nodded in agreement.

Cloudkit glared at Moonkit, "Moonkit won't be able to play. She can't fight at all." Moonkit held her head up, "I can do whatever you can."

Cloudkit smirked and stood beside Bluekit, "I'm Cloudstar leader of Sunclan and Bluekit is my deputy. Moonkit and Reedkit are Cloudclan."

Reedkit bounced over to his sister who was looking nervous. "Don't worry I'm sure Cloudkit will go easy on you," the black kit meowed.

Moonkit crouched beside Reedkit as they faced her two other littermates who were growling fiercly. "I declare war on Cloudclan!! Sunclan, attack!!" the white kit yowled loudly.

Moonkit bunched her legs under her and leaped. She squealed in alarm at how powerful her leap was. She fell flat on her face in the dirt. She felt weight on her back as she was flipped over and pinned down by Cloudkit.

Her brother had a triumphant look in his green eyes, "I knew you couldn't handle it."

Suddenly something flowed through her. It was something oddly refreshing and it gave her new power. Then she heard a whisper in her ear, *push him off of you with your hind legs and then pin him to the ground.*

Moonkit did as the voice said and put her paws on his belly and flung her brother into the air. Cloudkit yelped in alarm. Then Moonkit ran over go him and pinned him down.

Cloudkit was looking up at her with a mix of shock and amazement. Moonkit looked up from where she was pinning him down. She shrunk back as she saw most of the clan giving her a shocked look.

She was so confused and scared she darted into the nursery. *Why was every cat looking at her like she had just done something amazing?* She wondered.

The gray and white kit buried her head in her paws. She thought to herself with confusion, *Who was speaking to me when I was pinned down, because I know it wasn't any of my clanmates. Then who was it?*

Chapter 14

[image]

Gingerspot and a few other cats were staring at the kit in shock. Moonkit was play fighting with Cloudkit when she suddenly did a move a full warrior is taught only in apprenticeship.

Moonkit suddenly darted into the nursery. Gingerspot felt sorry for the kit but she still couldn't get over how well her fighting skills were. Briarwing padded up to her with wide excited eyes.

"Did you see Moonkit? She fought like a warrior," Briarwing meowed. Gingerspot nodded, "Yeah, and I can't believe she wants to be a medicine cat."

The two she-cats nodded in agreement. Then Briarwing jumped up excitedly, "Did you hear? Lionpaw and Berrypaw are having there warrior assessment today." Gingerspot purred, "Its about time you and Lionpaw became mates."

The brown and white she-cat ducked her head, embarrassed. Gingerspot laughed. Stormcloud approached Gingerspot while she laughed with Briarwing. "Hey, Gingerspot can you watch Berrypaw in her assessment today?" the deputy meowed.

"Why isn't Branchstar doing it?" she asked curiously. "He said he scented dogs close to our border so he is taking a special patrol to scout it out," Stormcloud meowed calmly.

Gingerspot looked at Briarwing and the she-cat gave her an encouraging nod. Gingerspot nodded, "Ok when do I need to start?" "Now."

Gingerspot rushed out of camp to go find Berrypaw. She found the small light brown tabby apprentice in the grass meadow in the middle of the territory.

Berrypaw suddenly dropped into a crouch. Gingerspot watched as

she crept forward silently. Berrypaw sprung forward and disappeared into the long grass. A moment later the young she-cat popped up with a fat mouse in her jaws.

Gingerspot was surprised with the plump piece of prey in leaf-fall. Berrypaw buried the mouse and walked away to go find something else.

Gingerspot followed her quietly. Berrypaw suddenly pricked her ears. Gingerspot pricked her ears too, wondering what the she-cat heard. Then, suddenly she felt the ground rumble underneath her.

Out of no where two huge dogs crashed into the meadow. As they layed eyes on Berrypaw they licked their lips excitedly. Gingerspot rushed over to Berrypaw's side to face the dogs.

The apprentice gave her a shocked look but didn't complain. The biggest dog, which was all brown, lunged at Gingerspot. The ginger and white long furred warrior slashed her claws across its muzzle.

The dog howled in pain but didn't back down. Berrypaw and Gingerspot were back to back hissing and growling at the dogs. "We need to get on there backs," Gingerspot hissed. Berrypaw nodded and snarled at the smaller dog which was creeping closer.

"On the count of three we are both going to leap at the biggest dog," Gingerspot yowled. Berrypaw nodded. "Ok. One, two, three!"

Berrypaw and Gingerspot sprung onto the bigger dog. Gingerspot bit down on its front leg while Berrypaw clawed her way up to its back. But just as the apprentice bit down onto its ear the smaller dog latched its sharp teeth into her side.

Gingerspot gasped as she saw Berrypaw be torn away from the big dog and be shaken like a toy in the smaller dogs jaws. Gingerspot tryed to rush over to help her clanmate when the big dog push her to the ground with a huge paw.

The dog snarled in her face before raising its huge head to get ready to bite down into her neck. *Is this how I will die?* She thought fearfully. Gingerspot closed her eyes waiting for Starclan to come

get her when she felt the paw that was on her chest lift.

She sprang to her paws to see Branchstar, Stormcloud, and Mistyberry attacking both of the dogs. Gingerspot ran over to help Stormcloud who was taking on the small dog all by himself.

He looked at her in relief as she joined him. As Stormcloud sliced at the dogs muzzle she quickly ran her claws through its flank. The dog whimpered with pain.

It turned to snap at Gingerspot but she was too fast. She darted over to its tail and bit down hard. The dog howled. Stormcloud ran under the dogs belly and put his sharp claws right through its soft belly.

That sent the dog running while whining and howling in pain. Stormcloud and Gingerspot raced over to help Branchstar and Mistyberry. Gingerspot suddenly stopped in horror as she saw the big dog bite into her leaders back and throw him against a nearby tree.

She felt a new strength within her as she charged at the brown dog. She leaped onto its back and sunk her teeth into the back of its neck. Dark red blood quickly flowed out of the wound she made.

The brown dog turned to try and get her of its back but it whimpered painfully as the wound stretched open wider.

Gingerspot jumped off the huge dogs as it limped away into the forest towards the twolegplace. She then ran over to where Branchstar was weakly getting to his feet.

The wound where the dog had bit him on the back was now gone. Branchstar looked at her with weak eyes. "Is every cat ok?" he murmured weakly.

She looked around and saw Mistyberry and Stormcloud padding over to them. But she didn't see Berrypaw. "Where's Berrypaw?" Branchstar asked, saying her thoughts.

Gingerspot suddenly remembered that the smaller dog had tossed the she-cat around like a toy. She then saw a trail of blood.

Gingerspot nervously followed it. She desperately hoped that the brown she-cat was ok. As she neared the tree where the blood trail came to a stop her heart seemed to drop into her stomach.

A brown mound of fur lay next to the tree. That lifeless form made Gingerspot back away in shock and horror. There was never a safe moment in life. Never ever.

Chapter 15

[image]

Gingerspot hung her head sadly. A brown lifeless body hung across Stormcloud's and Mistyberry's shoulders. Gingerspot was letting Branchstar lean against her shoulder because he was too weak to walk the whole way back to camp.

As they padded through the bramble wall outside camp into the clearing her heart froze as she heard cries of horror and disbelief.

Gingerspot guided Branchstar over to where Mistyberry and Stormcloud lay Berrypaw's body in the middle of the camp. Her heart broke as she saw Goldenflower collapse beside her dead kit.

"No! No! No!" she cried. She rapped her tail around Berrypaw and dug her muzzle into her fur. It seemed like time stopped as Lionpaw padded into camp happily with Smokefur at his side.

"Look I caught two mice and a squirrel. I can't wait to show...." he trailed off as he saw Berrypaw. Lionpaw screamed in horror and pain as he raced over to his dead sister.

Gingerspot wanted to run out of camp as fast as she could to run her claws through that stupid dogs throat. She watched painfully as Lionpaw threw himself over Berrypaw's body.

Gingerspot turned away, she couldn't bare watching any longer. She padded over to the nursery to visit her mother. The ginger queen was sitting in her nest grooming herself.

Flameheart looked up as she entered the den. "What's all the comosion about in the clearing," Flameheart meowed between licks. Gingerspot's head dropped sadly, "Berrypaw is dead."

Flameheart stopped in mid lick and looked at her in disbelief. "Your kidding, right?" she croaked. Gingerspot shook her head. Flameheart rushed out of the den to go look at her dead clanmate

before returning with her head and tail drooping.

"She was so close to becoming a warrior," Flameheart meowed sadly. Gingerspot nodded. Then she heard Branchstar yowl, "Let all cats gather around to hear my words."

Gingerspot and Flameheart padded out of the den. Branchstar was sitting beside Berrypaw as Sunclan began to gather around.

As the cats settled around him and Berrypaw he began, "Today we are here to honor and remember Berrypaw. She fought viciously against a dog twice her size. That to me shows skills of a true warrior."

"Starclan, before you take our clanmate I want to welcome her as a warrior to you," he meowed. Gingerspot felt a happy warmth knowing that the young cat would still become a warrior.

"I, Branchstar, leader of Sunclan call upon my warrior ancestors to look down on this apprentice. She has trained hard to learn the ways of your noble code and I commend her as a warrior in her turn. Berrypaw you will now be known as Berrysplash. We will forever honor your bravery and loyalty as we welcome you as a full warrior of Sunclan."

The sky seemed to shake as the cats raised there heads to yowl into the sky, "Berrysplash! Berrysplash! Berrysplash!"

Gingerspot felt the sadness that was weighing her down lift as they welcomed the new warrior.

Then something caught her eye. She gasped as she saw a cat with stars in its pelt. It was a she-cat with a brown tabby pelt, close to Berrysplash's. Then there was another cat. Gingerspot almost fell to the ground in disbelief.

It was Berrysplash. She looked healthy and strong. The she-cat bounded over to the other brown tabby she-cat. Gingerspot marveled at how similar they were. Berrysplash then suddenly looked right at Gingerspot. Then light brown tabby she-cat dipped her head in a farwell and bounded away into a white mist with the

older she-cat.

Gingerspot looked around, wondering if any other cat saw that. Goldenflower was still curled around Berrysplash's body and Lionpaw was sitting beside her too.

Branchstar was bowing his head to honor Berrysplash. Gingerspot looked around with confusion. Why was she the only one who saw that?

Chapter 16

[image]

Squirrelleap watched happily as the apprentices practiced battle moves. The newest apprentice, Fishpaw, was getting corrections from Redpaw and Hollypaw.

"Fishpaw, you have to do it like this," Hollypaw meowed. She stood on her hind paws and swiped at the air but fell back on her front paws too early.

"No this is how you do it Fishpaw," Redpaw meowed. Redpaw stood up on his hind legs and swiped his front paws through the air perfectly.

Fishpaw copied him but fell onto his stomach the first try. Hollypaw purred, "That's what you get for listening to Redpaw."

Redpaw growled and leaped on top of Hollypaw. The two tussled around until the accidentally bumped into Mouseears. The grumpy she-cat growled, "You two need to watch it."

The two apprentices broke apart and nodded. Squirrelleap almost laughed out loud when the she-cat walked away and the apprentices looked at each other and laughed.

Squirrelleap almost fell over as Blazeclaw pushed past her. "What was that for?" she growled. The tom gave a nasty look as he walked past. "Whitestar wants to speak to you," he growled back.

Squirrelleap rolled her eyes and padded over to the leaders den. She pushed through the lichen to find the white tom waiting for her. He motioned for her to sit. She looked at him suspiciously but sat down in front of him.

Whitestar looked her up and down and then finally meowed, "I need you to watch Rosepaw in her final assessment." Squirrelleap was surprised he was asking her. "Why can't you do it? Or

Blazeclaw?" she meowed.

"I don't have time to watch an apprentice hunt and I told Blazeclaw no because he has a special relationship with her so you have to," he growled. Of course she was his last option.

"Why is she taking her assessment so early?" she meowed. "If you ask one more question I will confine you to camp for a moon. Now go," he growled.

Squirrelleap flicked her tail annoyingly but obeyed and went to go get Rosepaw. She found the brown she-cat talking quietly with Blazeclaw. As she approached Blazeclaw growled. Squirrelleap ignored him and turned to Rosepaw.

"Come on, its time to go. I will be watching you during your final assessment," Squirrelleap meowed.

Rosepaw touched noses with Blazeclaw and followed her into the forest. After a few moments later Squirrelleap stopped. Rosepaw looked at her with confusion.

"Go on, we are starting now," Squirrelleap meowed. Rosepaw nodded and raced away into the forest. Squirrelleap sat there cleaning her paws before following slowly.

The russet she-cat quickly picked up Rosepaw's scent. She followed it until she saw the young cat stalking a frog.

Rosepaw leaped onto the green creature and quickly gave it a killing bite. Squirrelleap tryed not to shiver as a cold wind blew through the pine trees.

The apprentice buried the frog and started to move on to find more prey.

It was past sunhigh when Rosepaw had finished her assessment with a frog, a mouse, and a crow. Squirrelleap began to lead the way home when she heard a loud bark. Her fur stood on end as she realized it was a dog.

She knew it wasn't near enough to hurt her or the clan but it might

be hurting Sunclan. She couldn't bare to see her sister hurt.

Squirrelleap ran back to camp with Rosepaw at her side. Once they were in camp she instructed for Rosepaw to wait for her beside the fresh-kill pile while she went to go talk to Whitestar.

Whitestar got to his paws as she rushed into his den. "Did she pass?" he meowed.

Squirrelleap ignored his question and meowed, "I heard dogs near Sunclan territory. I think they might be in trouble." Whitestar narrowed hi s amber eyes. "If the dogs are not on our territory I do not care," he growled coldly.

"But they might need our help," she meowed desperately. "Its not our problem to worry about another clan. So since the dogs aren't on our territory there is nothing to worry about but ourselves," he hissed and pushed past her into the clearing.

Squirrelleap ducked her head as she followed him out. Whitestar was already climbing up onto the Highrock.

Squirrelleap desperately hoped her sister was ok.

Chapter 17

[image]

Moonkit yawned as she got to her paws tiredly. Her mother wasn't in the nest and she already knew why.

Moonkit walked into the clearing to still see Berrysplash's body in the middle of camp. The day before when Berrysplash had just died Snowdrop had told her kits that the young cat was just taking a long nap.

But Moonkit wasn't dumb. She knew the she-cat was dead. The clan was still grieving the loss of Berrysplash when Moonkit bounced over to Snowdrop.

Her mother looked very tired but didn't complain. Moonkit sat close beside her and joined in the silence. Until Branchstar raised his head stiffly.

"Its time," he meowed sadly. Goldenflower was staring at Berrysplash's body sadly. Lionpaw set his paw on his sisters pelt and whispered quietly, "I will tell my kits about your bravery and you will always stay close to my heart. Always."

Then he took a step back to join his mother. Branchstar and Stormcloud heaved Berrysplash onto there big shoulders and slowly walked out of camp to go bury their clanmate.

Snowdrop licked Moonkits ears and padded away into the nursery. Reedkit, who was now awake, bounded over to Moonkit. "Hey can we play fight again? Cloudkit said he wasn't even trying so now he is going to actually try to beat you. But I know you can beat him," he meowed.

Moonkit purred, "I guess so." As her brother dashed away to go get her other littermates she relished at how Reedkit had so much hope in her. Cloudkit and Bluekit didn't believe in her. Especially Cloudkit.

As they all three bounded over to her Cloudkit gave her a scowl. "This time your going down," the white tom kit growled. Moonkit crouched beside Reedkit as they both growled at Cloudkit and Bluekit.

Cloudkit suddenly charged towards Moonkit. *Side step to the right,* a voice whispered in her ear. Moonkit didn't have time to think as she side stepped to the right. Cloudkit yowled in shock as he raced past her and fell on his face.

The white kit growled after he spat out a mouthful of dirt and sand. He then charged at her again. She tryed to step to the right but he jumped on top of her. Her muzzle was suddenly pushed into the ground as the bigger kit stood on top of her. Then she heard the mysterious voice again, *let your body go limp. Then you must push him off your back.*

Moonkit obeyed and let her small kit body relax. Cloudkit grip loosened. Moonkit suddenly shot up sending her brother flying. Cloudkit hit the ground with a thud. Moonkit gasped as the kit started to gasp for breath.

She started to ran up to help him when Ivyleaf was already at his side. Moonkit stared in horror as her mother rushed past her over to her injured kit.

Moonkit turned on her paws and ran back to the nursery as quickly as she could. She pushed into the warm den and curled up into a tight ball in her nest.

What have I done?

Chapter 18

[image]

Gingerspot padded beside Briarwing quietly. It had been half a moon since Berrysplash's death. Goldenflower and Lionpaw were still sad about her death but they were slowly getting better.

Lionpaw was now padding beside Briarwing. But he wasn't an apprentice anymore. A quarter moon after his sisters death he agreed to have his warrior ceremony. His new name was now Lionfur.

Gingerspot purred as she realized that Briarwing and Lionfur were going to become mates soon. The whole clan knew it.

Sunclan was now racing through the undergrowth on their way to the gathering.

The moon shine brightly to guide their paws over the forest floor. Gingerspot fluffed up her fur as they left the trees behind them. Leaf-bare was right around the corner. It was getting colder and colder by the days.

Gingerspot slowed to a halt as her clanmates filed onto the treebridge up ahead. She was the last cat to climb up onto the fallen tree. She set her paws down carefully onto the slippery wood.

Gingerspot then quickly jumped down beside her clanmates onto the gathering island. She realized quickly that they were the first clan to arrive.

Gingerspot went to go sit with Briarwing and Lionfur as they waited for Cloudclan to arrive. There were several moments of silence until Gingerspot broke that silence.

"So, when are you two going to announce that you're mates?" she meowed with a smile. They both looked embarrassed.

Gingerspot was about to ask another question when Cloudclan burst into the clearing. She stood up on her hind legs to look for her sister. She purred in delite as the russet ginger she-cat walked over to her.

"Can't wait for this gathering to be over. I'm freezing," her sister meowed and sat down next to her. "The gathering will now begin," Whitestar's commanding yowl brought silence to the clearing. "I will start," the white tom meowed and continued, "Cloudclan has a new apprentice and a new warrior. We welcome Fishpaw and Rosethorn."

Gingerspot smiled as she saw Fishpaw, a cream colored tom, lick his chest in embarrassment from where he sat. Whitestar dipped his head to Branchstar who looked at the cats sadly.

"It brings me great sadiness to say that one of our beloved clanmates has joined Starclan's ranks. Berrysplash will forever live in our hearts," the tom meowed sadly. Sadiness gripped her heart as a memory flashed inside her brain. A memory from the day her friend died.

Branchstar then raised his tail for silence before continuing, "But we do have two new warriors. Briarwing and Lionfur are now full warriors of Sunclan."

Gingerspot joined in on congratulating the two new warriors. She pricked her ears as Branchstar was about to say something else when a yowl broke through his words.

Gingerspot and every other cat turned to see which cat had yowled so loudly. It was Smokefur. The dark gray tom gave Ivyleaf and Branchstar a worried look before meowing, "Flameheart's kits are coming!"

I'm really sorry this was such a short chapter and I plan to make them longer in the future. In kind of a right then and there writer so I don't plan anything in advance so its kind of rough just coming straight from my brain.
But I really hope y'all are liking the story so far!!!

Chapter 19

[image]

Squirrelleap watched as Branchstar and Ivyleaf immediately beckoned the clan. She stared after Gingerspot and the whole of Sunclan as they raced out of the clearing, leaving Cloudclan alone in the cold.

Squirrelleap puffed out her pelt to not be so cold. Whitestar narrowed his eyes and flicked his tail for Cloudclan to follow. Squirrelleap padded beside Rainpaw as they made their way back to camp.

"I hope Flameheart is ok," Rainpaw mewed quietly so no other cat could hear except Squirrelleap. "Yeah me too," she meowed.

She missed her mother everyday. She hated that Whitestar and Flameheart had separated. If they hadn't separated she would still be with her mother. Flameheart didn't even have a chance to watch her become a warrior.

But she was also glad that the ginger she-cat was moving on. Squirrelleap desperately hoped she could see her half littermates once they were born.

Squirrelleap padded after her clanmates in silence. Then she heard a bush russle behind her. She wiped around to see nothing. She scented the air cautiously but she smelled nothing.

The she-cat shrugged it off and caught up to her clanmates. She stopped as she heard another bush russle behind her. Squirrelleap once again turned to see and smell nothing.

Rainpaw had stopped as well and was looking back at her. "What's wrong Squirrelleap?" the medicine cat apprentice meowed with concern.

Squirrelleap was puzzled at the young cats question. Could Rainpaw really not hear the bushes russeling? "Nothing I just thought I heard something. Why don't you just go on without me. If Whitestar asked I'm scouting something out," she answered her friend calmly.

The gray she-cat dipped her head and raced away after her clanmates.

Squirrelleap looked back at the bush that just moved. Maybe it was just the wind? Or maybe prey? Whatever it was seemed to be following her.

She approached the bush cautiously. She opened her mouth yo scent the air. She only could smell the pine trees that towered over her. Squirrelleap braced herself for an attack as she peeked behind the bush. But she found nothing.

"Are you looking for me?" a gentle voice meowed from behind her. Squirrelleap spun around quickly. What she saw made her gasp and take a step back.

It was a small light brown tabby she-cat standing before her. But this cat was a pale color with stars in her short pelt.
"B...Berrysplash?" Squirrelleap whispered, too shocked to speak correctly.

The ghostly cat purred, "Yes its me Squirrelleap." "B..but I thought you d..died," Squirrelleap meowed in disbelief.

"I did and now I am a Starclan cat," Berrysplash meowed. Squirrelleap could hardly believe what she was hearing. She was seeing and talking to a Starclan cat! Why was this happening to her? Why not a medicine cat or a leader or some cat that was special?

Berrysplash purred, "You don't know this yet, but you are special Squirrelleap. There will be time that you and someone close will have to face a great challenge. You will be split between two paths: your clan or your kin. I trust that you will set your paws along the right path in the end."

Squirrelleap was filled with questions. Why did she have to be special? What was the great challenge? What was the right path? Why was Berrysplash telling her this? Why not a medicine cat?

Before Squirrelleap could open her mouth to ask a single question Berrysplash began to fade. "Wait! Please don't go Berrysplash! I have so many questions to ask," she yowled.

But the Starclan she-cat had already faded away into the night. Squirrelleap stared at the spot where Berrysplash had just stood. A cold and chilly breeze sliced through her fur.

The sun would be rising soon and she would have to go on patrols. Squirrelleap gave one last glance at the spot where the Starclan cat stood before she quickly trotted back to camp.

She relished the feel of pine needles under paw pads as she padded past by a low hanging branch which snagged slightly on her fur. She winced but kept on walking.

Blazeclaw, who was on guard, gave her a nasty look as she walked into camp. The sun was just starting rise, casting dawn light into the clearing.

The dawn patrol, Nightpelt, Rosethorn, and Hollypaw, were just leaving when Squirrelleap stumbled over to the warriors den. She sighed as she saw her soft comfortable nest waiting for her to curl up inside it.

Squirrelleap weaved around her sleeping clanmates to reach her nest. She flopped down into her nest and curled her tail over her nose. She closed her eyes and yawned.

She was about to drift of into sleep when a paw prodded her sharply. Her eyes flew open to see Dustfur gazing down at her.

"Whitestar wants extra hunting patrols going out so we are prepared for leaf-bare," the dusty brown tom meowed. Squirrelleap growled something under her breath as she heaved herself to her paws.

Dustfur flicked his tail as he exited the den. Squirrelleap rolled her eyes. When was she going to get a decent sleep with leaf-bare on its

way?

Chapter 20

[image]

Moonkit watched in resentment as the gathering cats padded out of camp. She wished she was an apprentice so could go to the gathering with Ivyleaf.

But she still had to wait for two more moons until she was apprenticed. She held back a purr as she felt Snowdrop's soft fluffy tail rap around her. "Its time to get some sleep," her mother meowed gently.

Moonkit was about to argue that she wasn't tired when she yawned. Maybe she was a little bit tired. Moonkit followed her littermates and her mother into the nursery.

Flameheart was already fast asleep on the opposite side of the den, her plump belly bulging out underneath her. Moonkit had heard Ivyleaf saying that the queen's kits should be expected to be born in half a moon.

She was so excited to hear that her new denmates would be here soon.

Moonkit squeezed in beside Reedkit to lay comfortably in the curve of Snowdrop's belly. She purred as warmth surrounded her. Before long sleep engulfed her.

Moonkit opened her sheepishly. She got to her paws quickly as she realized she wasn't in her nest anymore. A green grassy meadow stretched out before her. The sun shown endlessly on the lush green grass.

Moonkit purred in delight as a blue butterfly landed on her nose.

She jumped up and swatted at it. But it flew away quickly.

She hung her head, disappointed. Then she jumped back in surprise as a pair of tussling cats rolled in front of her. She looked up and gasped with horror.

The beautiful lush meadow was now filled with battling cats. The reek of blood and death stung in her nose. Why were so many cats fighting so fiercely?

Suddenly the battle disappeared. A group of cats appeared before her. She gasped as she realized all of these cats before her were cats that she loved.

Then suddenly each cat disappeared in a blaze of fire. She screeched in terror as her mother and father went down in a blaze. Then one by one every other cat did as well. Next Reedkit. Then Gingerspot. Lastly was Ivyleaf.

Moonkit was about to crumble in a heap of sorrow when she was awakened by a scream. The she-kit gasped for breath as she came back to real life. Her mother was awake too, looking around frantically.

A sigh escaped Moonkit's mouth as she saw every cat was still here and not a pile of ash and soot. Snowdrop was looking at Flameheart who was yowling in pain.

Her mother quickly dashed out of the den. Moonkit curiously followed her. Snowdrop was heading for the medicine when realization suddenly hit Moonkit. Flameheart was having her kits!

But also worried clouded her excitement. Wasn't it way too early for the kits to be coming? Oh well, Ivyleaf probably had an answer to that question.

Moonkit was pulled out if her thoughts as Snowdrop growled as she realized Ivyleaf was at the gathering.

Warriors were now awake and padding out if the warriors den to see what the comosion was about. Snowdrop gaze swung among the cats until it landed on Smokefur.

"Go run and get Branchstar," Snowdrop meowed calmly, hiding her worry very well.

"But..."

"Go, now!" Snowdrop growled impatiently.

Smokefur dipped his head before racing away to find the Sunclan leader. Snowdrop then turned to Mistyberry, "Ivyleaf will need a strong branch and wet moss."

Mistyberry nodded briskly before following the path her mate had taken.

Moonkit looked around for her littermates. She saw them bunched together in the elders den, but she didn't go to join them. Something told her to stay and watch the scene.

A pained screech made Moonkit shrink back in fear. She felt bad for Flameheart. The queen had to go through so much pain to have her kits half a moon early and her mate was at a gathering. But she didn't worry too much because she knew Ivyleaf would be back soon, hopefully.

Moonkit almost jumped out of her pelt as Branchstar, Ivyleaf, and the other gathering cats barged into camp like a heard of badgers.

Ivyleaf and Branchstar immediately rushed over to the nursery while Stormcloud and the other cats from the gathering padded away towards the warriors den. Snowdrop padded out of the nursery a few moments later.

Moonkit braced herself for her mother to tell her to go into the elders den, but the tired queen didn't notice her as she padded away into the elders den to curl up with her littermates.

Moonkit sighed in relief. She turned back to stare at the nursery walls. Every moment or so she heard the cry of Flameheart but it quickly would quiet down after that.

Moonkit made herself comfortable and sat in that exact spot for what seemed like moons. Dawn light was now filtering into the camp walls and Flameheart still was wailing and yowling loudly.

Goldenflower, Lionfur, and Gingerspot padded out if the warriors. All three cats looked tired but they continued out of camp to start the dawn patrol.

Moonkit looked towards the medicine den when Ivyleaf suddenly padded out. Moonkit bounded over to the medicine cat but stopped when she saw the exhausted look in the she-cats eyes.

Moonkit waited until Ivyleaf had passed before peeking her head into the nursery. She purred as she saw Flameheart and Branchstar looking happily down at their two new kits.

Branchstar must of heard her because he raised his head and beckoned for her to come in. Moonkit slid into the nursery and gaze at the two tiny kits.

They were both toms. The smaller tom was brown with green eyes like Flameheart's. The bigger tom was tan and white and had amber eyes like Branchstar's.

Moonkit was surprised to find herself staring at the bigger kit before glancing at Flamheart. The ginger she-cats fur was wet with sweat. Her eyes were dull and exhausted but she still was awake and gazing warmly at her kits.

"Do they have names yet?" Moonkit mumured quietly. Branchstar shook his head and looked at Flameheart. The queen looked down at the brown tom-kit and meowed softly, "His name can be Owlkit."

Branchstar purred and looked down at the tan and white kit, "And he can be Harekit."

Moonkit felt something within her that made her turn to look at Harekit. He was a perfect little kit. She was somehow drawn to him. She felt like they would be close friends one day. But this feeling also confused her. What was she exactly feeling?

Characters part 3

Sunclan:

Leader: Branchstar - white tom with brown paws, ears, and tail-tip

Deputy: Stormcloud - light gray tom with black stripes

Medicine cat: Ivyleaf - black and white she-cat with green eyes

Warriors:

Smokefur - dark gray tom with a short stubby tail
Goldenflower - white and ginger she-cat
Mistyberry - gray and cream she-cat
Gingerspot - long furred ginger and white she-cat
Briarwing - brown and white she-cat
Lionfur - yellow tom

Queens:

Snowdrop - white she-cat with black spots on her pelt (Moonkit - gray and white she-kit, Reedkit - black tom, Bluekit - blue-ish gray she-kit, Cloudkit - white tom)

Flameheart - dark ginger she-cat (Harekit - tan and white tom, Owlkit - brown tom)

Cloudclan:

Leader: Whitestar - huge white tom

Deputy: Dustfur - dusty brown tom (Redpaw)

Medicine cat: Cherrystem - red-ish brown she-cat with black spots on her pelt (Rainpaw)

Warriors:

Mouseears - brown and white she-cat with small ears (Fishpaw)
Thorntail - gray and white tom
Nightpelt - black tom (Hollypaw)
Blazeclaw - yellow tom with light ginger stripes
Squirrelleap - russet dark ginger she-cat
Rosethorn - brown she-cat

Apprentices:

Rainpaw - gray she-cat
Redpaw - red-ish brown tom
Hollypaw - mostly black tortoiseshell she-cat
Fishpaw - cream colored tom

Chapter 21

[image]

Gingerspot purred in excitement as the clan gathered around the nursery. It had been a moon since Flameheart's kits were born and they had just opened their eyes a quarter moon ago.

Knowing her mother the she-cat refused to let the kits out if the nursery until they were fully ready. Today was going to be that day.

Gingerspot rapped her tail around her paws as she sat beside Briarwing. They both leaned slightly forward as they heard squeals of excitement.

Gingerspot purred in delight as she saw a tan and white head pop out of the nursery followed by a brown head. Harekit stumbled out of the nursery clumsily.

Owlkit followed his brother more slowly. The kit looked at the cats gathered around nervously and tryed to run back into the nursery but Flameheart blocked his way.

Harekit sniffed the warriors gathered around curiously. Gingerspot purred as her half brother looked up at her with kit blue eyes. "Who are you," he squeaked.

"I'm Gingerspot," she meowed with a slight purr. "I'm Harekit," the kit meowed loudly.

She almost laughed as Harekit bounced away towards Flameheart and Branchstar. The gathered cats began disperse. Briarwing turned to her quickly before she could get up and leave.

"Do you want to go hunt?" the she-cat asked. Gingerspot nodded and followed her out of camp.

The air was crisp and chilly as they padded through the forest. Orange and red leaves crunched underneath their paws and the

scent of oak filled their noses.

Gingerspot froze as she spotted a squirrel a few fox-lengths away. She dropped into a crouch and crept forward quietly. Just as she was about to pounce a leaf cracked underneath her paw.

She hissed as the squirrel lifted its head and dashed away, but Gingerspot wasn't giving up that easily. She gave chase.

The squirrel was about to dart up a tree when brown and white fur landed on top of the prey. A moment later Briarwing popped up with the brown animal in her jaws.

Gingerspot purred but quickly stopped as she saw the seriousness in Briarwing's eyes as she padded over to her. "I need to tell you something," Briarwing mumbled under a mouthful of fur.

Gingerspot sat down and rapped her tail around her paws. "What is it?" she asked curiously once she was comfortable.

Briarwing shifted nervously before meowing, "I'm expecting kits."

Gingerspot's jaw dropped in astonishment. "Are they Lionfur's?" she meowed. "Who else would they be," Briarwing mewed.

Gingerspot purred excitedly, "I mean the whole clan saw it coming." Briarwing licked her chest, slightly embarrassed.

"So have you told Lionfur yet?" Gingerspot asked curiously. Briarwing shook her head, "No I just found out this morning. I tryed to tell him but he has been on multiple patrols today."

"Well lets go back to camp and see if he's back," Gingerspot meowed. Briarwing nodded and followed her back to camp with the squirrel in her jaws.

As they padded into camp Gingerspot saw Lionfur speaking to Snowdrop's kits.

"Dogs and foxes look alike and act alike. They are both mouse-brained but they are fierce and dangerous," Lionfur was meowing when Gingerspot and Briarwing were in earshot.

Cloudkit gasped in awe as Bluekit threw her paws in air and pretended to swat at something. "When I'm an apprentice I'll be the strongest and fastest warrior ever! No dog or fox will ever beat me," the she-kit growled.

"As if. I will most definitely be way bigger and stronger than you'll ever be," Cloudkit growled. Bluekit leaped at her brother. The two kits rolled over in a ball of fur.

Lionfur purred as he realized Briarwing and Gingerspot were standing behind him. "Do you want to share the squirrel I caught?" Briarwing asked the yellow tom nervously.

He looked slightly confused at her nervous tone but nodded vigorously. Gingerspot purred happily as she watched the two cats settle down to talk with the squirrel at their paws.

Gingerspot suddenly leaped out if her fur as Ivyleaf layed her tail on the she-cats shoulders. *Where did she come from?,* Gingerspot thought curiously. "Come on, let's a mouse," Ivyleaf meowed before guiding Gingerspot over a shady spot underneath a tree.

A juicy mouse was waiting there for the two she-cats as they settled down comfortably. Gingerspot almost purred as she sunk her teeth into the small warm body. "So when are you going to find yourself a mate? Or are you just going to be lonely forever," Ivyleaf blurted out of nowhere.

Gingerspot almost choked on her food from the random question. "Umm...there isn't any toms available I guess," she muttered nervously.

She was telling the truth though. Lionfur had Briarwing, Branchstar had Flameheart, Stormcloud had Snowdrop, and Smokefur had Mistyberry.

There weren't any toms that didn't have a mate. "That is true. But you still need to find some cat because you are way too young to be alone," Ivyleaf half growled half purred.

Gingerspot did feel lonely sometimes. But she didn't have time for

toms. They were stupid and just down right mouse-brained. But she still couldn't help but have the desire to have a special cat in her life.

Chapter 22

[image]

Weak dawn light filtered into the warriors den. Squirrelleap opened her eyes sleepily. She quickly got to her paws as Dustfur padded into the den.

"Every cat needs to wake up. Whitestar is calling for a clan meeting," the deputy meowed before exiting the den.

Squirrelleap looked around the den. Cats were stirring slightly as she stretched out her stiff muscles. She padded out if the den to see Whitestar, Dustfur, and Blazeclaw sitting on the Highrock.

Blazeclaw and Whitestar gaze her an icy glare while Dustfur dipped his head in a greeting. Squirrelleap ignored the others toms glares and returned Dustfur's greeting.

She sat down beside a low hanging fern to groom her messy pelt as cats came out if their dens. When every cat was settled and listening Whitestar began. "I have asked you all here today because the dawn patrol scented a rogue on our territory," Whitestar meowed. A few gasps and murmurs followed the leaders announcement. But he quickly continued, "So if any cat finds a non-clan cat on Cloudclan territory I give full permission to attack them."

The Cloudclan cats cheered loudly at the announcement but Squirrelleap hung back doubtfully. Why couldn't they just drive them off peacefully? Why was everything about fighting? Then she growled as she answered her own question. Whitestar and Blazeclaw were cats who looked for fights. They caused trouble every moment if every day.

Squirrelleap was about to go join a hunting patrol when Nightpelt padded over to her. "Hey Squirrelleap," the black tom meowed cheerfully.

Why is he so happy? And why is he even talking to me? "Hi," she meowed. She had never really talked to the black warrior ever since he joined the clan when she was just an apprentice. But she didn't know why he was just now talking to her.

"So what do you think about the rogue thing?" he asked curiously. Squirrelleap snorted, "The cat was probably just passing through. But of course, just like Whitestar to be looking for a fight."

Nightpelt had a slightly shocked expression in his amber eyes. "Do you always talk about your father like that?" he meowed. "He is not my father and he never will be," she hissed.

The tom flinched at sharp tone and Squirrelleap immediately felt bad. "I'm sorry," she meowed, ducking head guiltly. "No it's fine, you don't have to apologize," Nightpelt meowed and layed his long black tail over her shoulders.

She almost flinched at his warm comforting touch. She had felt nothing like it. At least since she was a kit. But this was different.

"Hey do you want to go hunting with me?" the black tom meowed. Squirrelleap nodded and followed him out if the bramble tunnel and out into the pine forest.

She shivered as a cold wind swept through the trees, making them sway peacefully. Squirrelleap followed Nightpelt until they reached the marshes on the outskirts of Cloudclan territory.

She suddenly saw a frog in the corner if her eye. She dropped into a hunters crouch and crept forward on light paws. Once she was a few mouse-lengths away she pounced gracefully.

She sank her teeth quickly into the green animals neck. Squirrelleap picked up her catch and padded back to Nightpelt.

The tom purred and waited for her to bury her prey before moving on to find some more prey.

It was almost sunhigh and Squirrelleap had caught two mice along with her frog. Nightpelt had caught a sparrow and a squirrel and was padding over to her.

"This will be plenty of prey for the clan," Nightpelt purred through his mouthful of prey.

Squirrelleap nodded with agreement and grabbed her mice and went to go retrieve her frog. The two then made there way back to camp.

The leaf-fall sun slightly warmed Squirrelleap's pelt as she walked into camp. She and Nightpelt set there prey down on the fresh-kill pile and as Squirrelleap started to walk away Nightpelt called her back. "Hey....umm....do you want to share a mouse?" he asked while shuffling his paws in the dirt.

Squirrelleap was slightly puzzled but responded with a nod. She followed Nightpelt over to the low hanging fern and sat down beside him.

They shared the mouse in a peaceful quietness. Until Nightpelt finally spoke, "So I know you and me have never really talked before but I'm hoping we could hang out some more. To get to know each other I mean." "Of course," Squirrelleap purred. She enjoyed talking to the black tom. He was one of the only kind cats in the clan, besides Hollypaw and the medicine cats.

They talked about many things for a while. "So what's your favorite piece if prey?" he meowed. She tilted her head in thought then answered, "Probably squirrel."

Nightpelt almost fell over in laughter. "What's so funny?" she asked in confusion. "Your name starts with squirrel and you like to eat squirrels. I think that's ironic," he chuckled. Squirrelleap purred at his laughing nature.

The sun was beginning to set when Squirrelleap and Nightpelt started to get tired. "My mouth hurts from talking too much," he yawned. Squirrelleap chuckled and followed him into the warriors den. Her nest wasn't close to his but she didn't mind.

She flopped down in her nest and closed her eyes. Almost immediately a comforting darkness fells
over her.

Chapter 23

[image]

Gingerspot woke with a start. The sun was already up and was filtering light into the warriors den. She leaped to her paws when she realized what time it was.

Gingerspot rushed out if the den to see Stormcloud organizing patrols. She rushed over to the crowd of cats and sat beside Briarwing. "Gingerspot, I want you to lead a border patrol with Lionfur and Mistyberry," the deputy meowed.

She was taken aback at his command. This would be her first patrol that she would lead. Gingerspot waited for Lionfur and Mistyberry before leading the way out of camp.

She purred to herself as the scent of oaks and prey filled her nose and mouth. Along with the icy leaf-fall breeze.

The ginger and white she-cat led the way all the way to the Cloudclan border. "Lets just set our markers and get back to camp before a Cloudclan patrol comes," she instructed. She felt awkward giving Mistyberry orders but the older she-cat didn't seem to mind.

Gingerspot padded over to a bramble bush to quickly set a marker before going to mark another part of the border.

When she was done she went to go find her two clanmates. Gingerspot stopped in her tracks when she saw a bush in front if her russle. She opened her mouth to scent the air. There was plants, oaks, and...*a cat.*

She growled threateningly. "Show yourself!" she growled in a low voice. Gingerspot stood there for a few moments before a heavy weight came crashing down onto her shoulders.

Gingerspot collapsed onto the ground as the cat dug its claws into her shoulders. Then her warrior training flashed in front if her. She

suddenly let her body go limp. The grip on her shoulders loosened.

Gingerspot then shot up, sending the cat flying. She turned around furiously to see her attacker. But the cat was already leaping at her again.

She huffed as she was slammed onto the ground. Gingerspot was now trapped under the cat. She looked up to give the cat a furious hiss when she stopped.

Gingerspot was staring into beautiful emerald green eyes. The cat was a dark gray tabby tom with the most breathtaking eyes. He seemed to be in a trance with her as well as they stared at each other in silence.

Until she heard an angry hiss and felt the weight be lifted off her. The Sunclan she-cat stumbled to her paws and looked around for her savior. She saw Lionfur violently tearing his claws into the gray tabby toms back.

Gingerspot rushed over to the scene to help. She sank her teeth into Lionfur's scruff and heaved him off of the other tom. She felt the yellow tom hiss and growl but she didn't let go of him until she dragged him well away from the gray cat.

Mistyberry was just now joining them and looked at the gray tabby tom with anger. Gingerspot set down Lionfur and turned to look at her attacker. The tom was gazing at her with those green eyes that almost put her in a trance, but she wouldn't let him.

"Who are you and what are you doing on Sunclan territory?" Gingerspot growled. "My name is Flash and I was just passing through," he meowed calmly. Lionfur stepped up beside Gingerspot and snarled at the loner, but didn't say a word. "Well, we will have to bring you back to our camp so our leader can decide what to do with you," she meowed.

Mistyberry and Lionfur got on both sides of the loner and followed Gingerspot as she led the way back to camp. She couldn't stop herself from thinking about his eyes. *They were just so beautiful and he is kind if handsome.* Gingerspot hissed at herself for thinking such

silly and ridiculous thoughts. This cat was a loner and he would never be apart if a clan.

She braced herself as the patrol padded into camp. Suspicious glares were shot towards the newcomer. Gingerspot ignored them as she raised her tail for the patrol to stop and wait for her to go get Branchstar.

She trotted over to his den under the Sunrock and peaked her head inside. The muscular tom was Stormcloud before she interrupted.

"We found a loner on our territory. I brought him to camp to see what you and to say about him," she meowed while dipping her head. Branchstar glanced at Stormcloud before followed Gingerspot into the clearing.

She tryed not to look into Flash's eyes but she just resist it. She looked up and immediately was staring into the depths of his eyes. The dark gray tabby tom was looking at her as well but quickly snapped his gaze to Branchstar as the leader looked him up and down.

"Why were you trespassing onto Sunclan territory loner?" Branchstar growled. Stormcloud was now beside the leader and staring at Flash through narrowed eyes. Flash gazed at the leader calmly, "I just got lost, sorry. And I'm a rogue actually."

Gingerspot's fur bristled as cats gasped. "I don't trust you one bit so you will you keep you here with guards on you at all times until I know why you were on our territory," Branchstar growled in a low, cold voice. Flash didn't seem to mind as Lionclaw and Mistyberry shoved him towards the elders den.

Gingerspot stared after the gray tom as he stepped into the den and disappeared. She was about to go see Flameheart's kits when Lionclaw bounded over to her. "The rogue wants to speak to you," the yellow tom growled. Gingerspot cocked her head in confusion as she hesitantly followed Lionclaw over to the elders den. She pushed into the den to see the gray tabby pushing moss together to make a nest. Flash raised his head as she came in. He purred and sat down and rapped his long thin tail over his paws.

"Your probably wondering why I asked for you," he meowed. Gingerspot narrowed her green eyes and nodded. "I want you to meet me tonight at moonhigh at the place where I attacked you," he meowed.

Her fur bristled. "Why should I?" she growled. He purred and drew a paw over his ears, "Because I'm going to tell you why I'm here." Gingerspot pricked her ears with interest. *It would be nice to hang out with this handsome tom...oh snap out if it Gingerspot you can't have feelings for a rogue.*

Gingerspot looked into his emerald green eyes and couldn't help but nod in agreement.

Chapter 24

[image]

As the moon began to rise higher into the night sky Gingerspot creeped out of the warriors den. The almost half covered moon was getting higher by the second as Gingerspot slowly and quietly padded towards the dirtplace tunnel.

The ginger and white she-cat wrinkled her nose in disgust at the rank smell. But she sighed in relief as she she climbed out of the dirtplace and into the fresh oak forest.

Gingerspot felt guilt swirl around inside of her. She hoped what she was doing was the right thing, or her clan might have to pay for it.

She walked quickly to the meeting spot, not wasting a second. Her pelt began to slightly bristle with nervousness as she caught the wiff of a tom.

Gingerspot was almost to meeting spot by the border when a gray tabby tom padded in front of her. She stopped in her tracks and narrowed her eyes. "How did you get out so fast?" she growled. The tom shrugged and sat down, "That's classified."

She sent him a scowl before sitting down as well. "So, why are you here?" she growled, getting right to the point.

Instead of answering he lifted his tabby head and looked into her eyes. She tryed to pull away but she couldn't. The depths of his green eyes took over her.

"I'm actually not a rogue. I only said that so I could see you," he meowed, breaking the trance. Gingerspot gasped in surprise and shock. *Oh my Starclan! Did he just basically say he liked me? Well I like him....no you can't like a loner.*

She was about to reply when he began to pad away. "Wait! Where are you going?" she asked. He looked back and gave her a small

smile, "Back to my den. Meet here again tomorrow. Oh and by the way you look really pretty in the moonlight." With that Flash disappeared into the undergrowth.

Gingerspot was flattered. Then she felt something. It was so strong that it completely took her by surprise. *I have only known him for one day and I already have strong feelings for him. What am I going to do?*

Gingerspot yawned as she padded beside Briarwing through the forest. This was probably Briarwing's last patrol before she had to move to the nursery so Gingerspot decided she was going to enjoy it with her friend.

"I wonder why that rogue was on our territory?" Brairwing asked curiously as they padded together behind Smokefur, who was leading the patrol. "U-umm I don't k-know," Gingerspot stuttered nervously. She knew exactly why Flash was here. Every time she thought about the dark gray tabby tom her heart fluttered. Briarwing looked at her suspiciously but before she said a word Smokefur stopped. Gingerspot slid to a stop, almost slamming into the dark gray tom.

Smokefur suddenly dropped into a hunters crouch and Gingerspot and Briarwing did the same. She opened her mouth and rabbit hit her nose. Without needing to be told Gingerspot crept around to the other side if the rabbit. The animal was nibbling on some grass as she waited for the signal. Then she finally saw Smokefur flick his tail.

Adrenaline rushed through her as she jumped up and yowled loudly. The rabbit looked up from its grass and dashed away. Smokefur leaped out of hiding and pounced right onto the animal. Gingerspot heard a squeal before silence followed the catch.

She skipped over to Smokefur and frowned when she looked at the rabbit. It was scrawny, showing the beginning of leaf-bare. "This will be for one of the queens," Smokefur meowed and buried the prey.

Gingerspot and Briarwing followed him in silence until they reached their far border. The border was a wide river that ran all the way along the outside of their territory. Sunclan had never had the time to send warriors to go explore the unknown territory.

The patrol quickly marked the border and began to head home. Smokefur left Gingerspot and Briarwing to make their way back to camp without him as he went to go retrieve his rabbit. Briarwing looked at her curiously as they padded towards camp.

"Have you spoken to the rogue?" the queen asked. "N-no," she lied once more to her friend. The brown and white she-cat stopped suddenly and flicked her tail irritatedly.

"I have never heard you stutter until the rogue suddenly showed up. Do you know something I don't? You know you can tell me," Briarwing meowed through narrowed and expecting eyes.

Gingerspot sighed, "Fine I will tell you why I'm suddenly stuttering. But you have to promise that you won't tell any cat. Not even your kits." Briarwing looked like she wanted to laugh as she answered, "I promise."

Gingerspot sat down and told her in fear friend everything.

Chapter 25

[image]

Squirrelleap put her nose to the ground and inhaled deeply. "It smells like the rogue went onto Sunclan's territory yesterday," she meowed, raising her head to look at the rest of the patrol. Rosethorn opened her mouth to scent the air then nodded. Thorntail nodded curtly and started to lead the patrol back to camp.

Squirrelleap padded beside Rosethorn. She and the brown she-cat had never really been friends since Rosethorn was Blazeclaw's mate, and Squirrelleap hated her brother.

As they neared camp she caught the scent of mouse. "I will be right back," she meowed to the patrol. Thorntail flicked his tail in acknowledgement and led Rosethorn through the Holly Tunnel.

Squirrelleap immediately dropped into a hunters crouch. The mouse quickly hopped into view, quietly munching on a nut of some sort. The dark russet ginger she-cat crept forward silently. Once she was close enough to pounce she bunched her hind legs underneath her and leaped. The mouse squeaked as she landed on top of it but she swiftly bit its neck.

She purred in satisfaction as the warm body fell limp underneath her. "Nice catch!" a voice meowed. She wiped around quickly with wide anxious eyes. But it was only Nightpelt. She relaxed and purred at his praise. "Cloudclan is lucky to have a wonderful hunter like you," he purred. Squirrelleap flushed from nose to tail-tip. "T-thanks," she stuttered and quickly grabbed her mouse and padded past him into the Holly Tunnel.

She could hear Nightpelt's paw steps as he followed her through the Holly Tunnel and into the camp. Squirrelleap was almost knocked off her paws as Hollypaw and Fishpaw raced past her. She purred as the two apprentices stopped in front of Mouseears and looked up at her with expecting eyes. "I cleaned out your nest all by myself," Fishpaw meowed proudly. Hollypaw shoved him roughly, "I helped

you clean out her nest." "No you didn't!" he meowed. Hollypaw cuffed him around the ear.

Squirrelleap rolled her eyes and then padded over to the fresh-kill pile. Nightpelt padded up beside her and stopped her before she could walk away. "Hey, do you want to share a vole with me?" the black tom meowed. Squirrelleap nodded and watched as Nightpelt's yellow eyes lit up.

She followed him over to their eating spot under the low hanging fern. Squirrelleap settled down beside the black tom and took a big bite from a plump vole. The warm meat made her tongue dance as wonderful flavors filled her mouth. Nightpelt almost laughed when he saw that she was enjoying the vole a little too much.

Squirrelleap and Nightpelt had become close friends in the last two sunrises. She liked to talked to him and valued him as a close friend. But more lately every time he gave her a compliment, which were very often, her heart fluttered and her pelt got hot.

Just as she was about to take another bite of the vole Blazeclaw padded over to them. His amber eyes were narrowed into slits and a low growl escaped his mouth as he got closer to her. "Why are you eating a plump piece of prey when there are more important cats who need it," he growled.

Squirrelleap was confused at the anger in his voice but she simply answered, "Every cat is important in the clan." "You are not even close to important. You are just another worthless mouth to feed. Now Rosethorn is my mate and leaf-bare is coming and she needs plump prey so she has the strength to carry my kits! So I suggest you give that vole to Rosethorn who is way more important than you are," he snarled.

Squirrelleap curled her lip with hatred. But before she said a word Nightpelt got to his paws and glared at Blazeclaw. "I feel bad for your kits. They will have to grow up with a father that does not care for any cat but himself. You know what, I feel bad for your mother who had to go through all of that pain to give birth to fox-hearted cat like you," Nightpelt meowed calmly.

Cats were now gathering around the two toms as they glared at each other. "Squirrelpaw are you really going to let your mate stand up for you like that," Blazeclaw chuckled evily. Squirrelleap rose to her paws to stand beside Nightpelt. "He is not my mate and my name is Squirrelleap!" she spat.

Blazeclaw narrowed his eyes mire than they already were. "One day you will regret you were ever born," he snarled and walked away. Squirrelleap's pelt was bristling and her teeth were bared. Whitestar had been watching the whole thing, not even lifting a paw to break it up.

The white tom scowled at her from across the clearing. Squirrelleap growled lowly. She desperately wanted to take her claws across his face but she knew she couldn't. Nightpelt layed his tail across her shoulders. "I need to show you something," he meowed soothingly.

Squirrelleap was too angry to argue so she followed him out of camp and into the pine forest. She relished the crunch of pine needles under her paws and the scent of tree sap. This was her home but she didn't know if Cloudclan was her home. *I just don't know anymore. At least I have Nightpelt.* She thought.

She looked around her and realized Nightpelt was taking her to the lake. As they bushed through a bramble bush the large stretch of water spread out before. "Why did you take me here?" she half growled half meowed.

Nightpelt flicked her ear with his tail playfully. "You will see soon," he mewed.

Squirrelleap rolled her eyes and settled down beside him to look across the lake. She sat there beside him for a long time. She finally gave him a questioning look when the sun started to set. But he just looked at her and purred, "You will see soon."

Squirrelleap sighed and sat back down. Suddenly colors of orange, red, purple, and pink were cast across the lakes surface. Squirrelleap's eyes widened at the beauty and colorfulness of the setting sun on the lake. She suddenly felt Nightpelt's fur brush against hers as he moved closer to her.

Squirrelleap thought about moving away but it felt so good. She relaxed as he rapped his long thin black tail around her and pulled her closer to his muscular body. Squirrelleap rested her head against his shoulder to look out across the lake. "I would do anything for you Squirrelleap," Nightpelt meowed, taking Squirrelleap by surprise.

"W-we just started talking two s-sunrises ago. I-i didn't know you felt this way..." she was cut off by his tail covering her mouth lightly. His eyes blinked playfully as he looked down at her, "Shh. Don't worry, I'm not asking you to be my mate or anything, at least not yet."

Squirrelleap looked at him uncertainly but relaxed once more when he shoved her playfully. She purred and shoved him back. Nightpelt growled and jumped on her. She huffed at his heavy body fell on top of her. Squirrelleap looked up into his yellow eyes. They showed playfulness and a hint of...affection?

What ever it was Squirrelleap felt comforted by his presence. Maybe there was some hope for making Cloudclan her home.

Chapter 26

[image]

Moonkit excitedly bounced out of the nursery. "Let all cats old enough to catch their own prey gather under the Sun Rock for a clan meeting," Branchstar yowled from on top of the Sun Rock.

Snowdrop quickly rapped her tail around Moonkit and her littermates to clean their fur. Today Moonkit and her littermates were going to become apprentices. She grumbled as the clan began to gather but Snowdrop wouldn't let her go. "Snowdrop, our fur is fine," Bluekit growled.

Snowdrop hesitantly let them go. Stormcloud trotted up beside Snowdrop to proudly watch his kits. Moonkit scampered past her littermates to the front of the gathered cats.

Branchstar purred in amusement as the kits stumbled to a halt in front of him. "Bluekit, please step forward," the leader meowed.

Moonkit watched as her sister bounced forward on excited paws. Branchstar looked down at the kit, "Bluekit, you have reached the age of six moons and you are ready to be apprenticed. From this day forward until you receive your warrior name you will be known as Bluepaw. Your mentor will be Lionfur. Lionfur, I expect you pass down all you know to your apprentice."

Lionfur looked surprise that he was chosen to be a mentor but he simply nodded, "I will Branchstar." The yellow tom then walked up to Bluepaw to touch noses with her before sitting down beside his new apprentice.

Moonkit watched as Reedkit became Reedpaw, his mentor is Goldenflower, and Cloudkit became Cloudpaw, who's mentor is Mistyberry. Then it was finally her turn. She watched as Ivyleaf came to stand beside Branchstar. The black and white she-cat looked down at Moonkit.

"Cats of Sunclan, as you all know, I will not be around forever. So its time that I took an apprentice. I have chosen a cat who has shown great interest in herbs. Your next medicine cat will be Moonpaw," Ivyleaf meowed.

Branchstar looked at Moonpaw, "Moonpaw, do you accept the apprenticeship to Ivyleaf?"

Moonpaw nodded, "I do."

Ivyleaf nodded, "Then tonight, at half moon, we must travel to the Moonpool to be accepted by Straclan before the other medicine cats."

"The good wishes of all of Sunclan will go with you," Branchstar yowled, ending the ceremony. Moonpaw trotted over to Ivyleaf to touch noses with her new mentor.

Then the whole clan began to cheer the names of the new apprentices. "Bluepaw! Reedpaw! Cloudpaw! Moonpaw!" Moonpaw lifted her chin up with pride. Just as she was about to follow Ivyleaf into the medicine den a loud yowl cam from the elders den.

A dark gray tabby tom was walking towards Branchstar casually. "What are *you* doing out of the elders den?" Branchstar growled in a low voice.

Moonpaw recognized this cat as the rogue who had come into camp half a moon ago. "I must ask you something," the tabby tom meowed back calmly.

Branchstar narrowed his eyes, "Go ahead." "I would like to join the clan," the gray tom meowed. Moonpaw heard surprised gasps and a few angry hisses. "You may join Sunclan. On one condition. You must tell me why were you on Sunclan territory in the first place," Branchstar meowed.

The gray looked at his paws for a few seconds before glaring at Branchstar, "Very well. I am not a rogue. I was never a rogue I was a loner. I told you that I was a rogue so I could stay in your camp and see how clan life was really about." Moonpaw gasped. This cat

lied to Branchstar!

But Branchstar didn't seem surprised at all as he simply nodded, "Thank you for your honesty. Now, Flash please step forward."

The dark gray tabby tom, Flash, walked over to stand in front of Branchstar. "Flash, from now on you will now be known as Grayfur. I'm sure you already know how to hunt and fight but I will have Gingerspot give you a tour of the territory," Branchstar meowed.

Moonpaw only heard one cat call the new warriors name, and that was Gingerspot. Moonpaw turned to look at Ivyleaf but the medicine cat was already padding towards the medicine cat den. The gray and white she-cat trotted after her mentor.

Moonpaw almost staggered as the sharp tange of herbs slapped her nose. Ivyleaf turned to Moonpaw and set three different leaves in front of her. "Alright, lets get started as soon as possible," the medicine cat meowed and started teaching Moonpaw about the different herbs.

Moonpaw's eyes widened as so many new scents and sights welcomed her. She was padding beside Ivyleaf as they made there way through the forest to the Moonpool. "Where are the other medicine cats?" Moonpaw asked her mentor curiously.

"We will meet them at the Moonpool," Ivyleaf meowed. Moonpaw looked around once more. They were now leaving the oak forest and padding onto an open moor. Moonpaw shivered as a cold wind swept through her thick fur. The moor had no trees and it stretched out with what seemed like no end.

It felt like moons before the springy moor grass transferred to rough and rocky terrain. Ivyleaf climbed on the rocks with ease but Moonpaw had a lot of trouble. The small cat had to leap high onto the rocks.

By the time they reached the top Moonpaw was out of breath. Ivyleaf looked at her in amusement, "It will get easier."

I sure hope so. Moonpaw looked down and gasped in astonishment. It was the Moonpool. As Moonpaw padded after Ivyleaf she felt her paws slip into the pawprints of countless cats before her. It was so peaceful and it soothed her down to the bone.

She jumped back in surprise as a red-ish brown she-cat with black spots on her pelt padded up to Ivyleaf to touch noses with her. "Its nice to see you again Ivyleaf," the strange she-cat meowed. Ivyleaf purred, "It nice to see you too Cherrystem." Cherrystem shifted her gaze to Moonpaw, who was now beside her mentor.

"Who is this?" Cherrystem asked. "This is Moonpaw, my new apprentice," Ivyleaf meowed, looking down at Moonpaw proudly. Moonpaw was about to say something when a gray she-cat stepped up beside Cherrystem. "We should probably start now, we're wasting moonlight," the gray she-cat grumbled.

Cherrystem rolled her eyes, "This is Rainpaw, she is becoming a full medicine cat tonight." Moonpaw saw excitement flash in Ivyleaf's eyes as they padded over to the edge of the Moonpool. Cherrystem looked up at the night sky and started the ceremony.

"I, Cherrystem, medicine cat of Cloudclan, call upon my warrior ancestors to look down on this apprentice. She has trained hard to understand the ways of a medicine cat and with your help she will serve her clan for many moons."

"Rainpaw, do you promise to uphold the ways of a medicine cat, to stand apart from rivalry between clan and clan and to protect all cats equally, even at the cost of your life?"

Rainpaw nodded solemnly, "I do."

"Then by the power of Starclan I give you your medicine cat name. Rainpaw from this day forward you will now be known as Rainshine. Starclan honors your memory and loyalty as we welcome you as a full medicine cat of Clouclan." Cherrystem touched her nose to the gray she-cat's head as Rainshine licked her shoulder.

"Rainshine! Rainshine!" Moonpaw lifted her muzzle to the sky and

chanted the she-cat's new name. "Now we dream with Starclan," Ivyleaf murmured. Moonpaw followed Ivyleaf as she lapped at the Moonpool.

Moonpaw gasped as a cold darkness engulfed her. She closed her eyes tightly but quickly opened them as something soft tickled her paws. She opened her eyes to see lush green grass under her paws. She was in a wide open meadow with flowers sprouting up everywhere.

Suddenly a small brown she-cat started to walk towards Moonpaw. Moonpaw wanted to go and hide under something but she couldn't. "I won't hurt you," the brown she-cat meowed. "W-who are you?" Moonpaw meowed fearfully.

The brown she-cat purred, "I'm Berrysplash. I'm sure you've heard of me." Realization suddenly hit Moonpaw. Berrysplash died, so she was in Starclan! "H-how did I die?" Moonpaw whimpered. "You didn't die. You are in Starclan because I need to give you a message," Berrysplash meowed.

Moonpaw looked at her former clanmate with confusion and curiosity. Berrysplash then continued, "Between the clouds and the sun there will be fire. A blazing fire that will tear apart the forest. It will bring darkness and death very quickly. But if the moon shines bright enough then the clouds and the sun will go on in peace and the blazing fire will be no more. But the moon cannot do it alone. It will need help from two cats that will help defeat the blazing fire."

Moonpaw was about to question Berrysplash when heat scorched at her muzzle. Before her the meadow was gone and there was now hundreds of tall trees being engulfed in flames. Moonpaw screeched as another round of heat lapped at her muzzle.

Flames were hungrily eating away at the forest floor and crawling closer to the small cat. Moonpaw cowered back in fear. She yowled in pain as she felt the flames touch her pelt.

Then she suddenly remembered a similar vision like this when she was a kit. *So now it really does mean something.* Moonpaw tryed to hop back as the fire got closer but her paws were stuck to the

ground. Suddenly a voice murmured in her ear, *when the time comes herbs won't be able to save your clan.*

And just like that Moonpaw was once more lying beside the Moonpool. Ivyleaf was also towering over her. Moonpaw didn't realize she was panting until Ivyleaf started speaking to her. "Moonpaw! Are you alright?" Ivyleaf asked, worry clearly showing in her voice.

Moonpaw got shakily to her paws and looked around. Rainshine and Cherrystem were giving her strange but worried looks while Ivyleaf was standing beside. "You can tell me all about it once we get back to camp," Ivyleaf whispers in her ear.

Moonpaw nodded, too out of breath and shaken to speak. For once she was grateful for the cold wind that welcomed her on the open moor.

Chapter 27

Gingerspot yawned and stretched out her tired limbs. It was nearly dawn and she was on the dawn patrol. She pricked her ears when she suddenly heard rustling from the bramble tunnel. A moment later Ivyleaf padded into camp with Moonpaw leaning against her shoulder. The apprentice's eyes looked distant as she stumbled beside Ivyleaf.

Gingerspot was about to go and check on the gray and white she-cat when she felt a tail stroke against her flank. She turned her head to see Grayfur. "Your on the dawn patrol?" she meowed in disbelief. Grayfur purred, "I guess I am. Stormcloud told me that I needed to be on quite a bit of dawn patrols before I'm truly excepted into the clan."

Gingerspot rolled her eyes and sat down to wait for the rest of the patrol. A few ling moment had passed until Goldenflower finally padded out of the warriors den and went to go retrieve her apprentice.

Gingerspot purred in amusement when Reedpaw came out of the apprentices den grumbling how he didn't want to be on the dawn patrol. "Its only my second day being an apprentice why do I have to go on the dawn patrol," Reedpaw growled to his mentor.

"Because every cat has to go on the dawn patrol at some point so I am just getting you used to it at an earlier age," Goldenflower growled back to him. The black tom opened his mouth to reply but quickly thought better of it and clamped his mouth shut.

Gingerspot lead the patrol out of the bramble tunnel and into the forest. The crisp scent of ice stung her nose and dried her mouth. *I bet it's going to snow soon.* Gingerspot hated snow. She liked greenleaf, when prey was plentiful and they didn't have to worry about starving.

Gingerspot shook her pelt out as they got closer to the Cloudclan

border. She waved her tail for Goldenflower and Reedpaw to go one way while she and Grayfur went another way. She lead the dark gray tabby tom over to a bramble bush and turned to look at him. "I know you know how to mark things so I want you to mark this bush," Gingerspot instructed him.

Grayfur nodded and easily spread his scent marker on the bush. Gingerspot nodded approvingly and they both marked the rest of the border. Once they were done Gingerspot and Grayfur quickly met up with Goldenflower and Reedpaw.

Gingerspot led the way back to camp swiftly, not wanting to stand out in the cold for much longer. Even with her thick pelt the cold still reached down to her bones, making her shiver every once in a while.

As they neared the bramble tunnel Gingerspot quickened her pace. She trotted into camp with the rest if the patrol hot on her heels. Most of the clan was now awake and gathering around Stormcloud for instructions. "Smokefur, lead a hunting patrol with Snowdrop and Lionfur. Mistyberry and Goldenflower take Bluepaw, Reedpaw, and Cloudpaw out for some hunting practice," Stormcloud yowled.

Gingerspot dismissed Goldenflower and Reedpaw to go practice hunting. She jumped as she felt Grayfur brush up against her. "You're more jumpy than a rabbit," Grayfur laughed. Gingerspot lashed her tail in annoyance. The tabby tom had been more clingy in the last couple of days. At some times she liked his company but others she hated it when he decided to laugh at her for the littlest things.

She was about to give him a stinging retort when Branchstar interrupted her. "Gingerspot, meet me in my den. Now," he ordered and padded away towards his den. Gingerspot shared a nervous glance with Grayfur before following the Sunclan leader.

The scent of dust and fresh moss flooded into her mouth as she walked into the leaders den. It was quite big for one cat. There was a soft moss nest in the far right corner, marking where Branchstar slept.

Branchstar wasn't the only cat in his den when she sat down to look at him. Ivyleaf and her apprentice, Moonpaw, were sitting beside the brown and white tom. Moonpaw was shifting uneasily beside Ivyleaf as they all waited for Branchstar to speak.

"Ivyleaf has informed me that Moonpaw wishes to be a warrior apprentice," Branchstar meowed. Gingerspot looked at the young gray and white she-cat. Moonpaw looked tired and worried. "So, Gingerspot would you please train Moonpaw to be a wonderful warrior of Sunclan?" Branchstar pressed.

Gingerspot stared at Moonpaw before nodding slowly, "Of course Branchstar."

Branchstar purred, "Then its settled. Moonpaw your new mentor is Gingerspot." Moonpaw hesitantly padded up to her new mentor and touched noses with her. Gingerspot looked into Moonpaw's eyes. They clearly showed worry and absolute fear. *Why is she so scared and worried? Did something happen at the Moonpool last night?*

Gingerspot shrugged it off and led her new apprentice out into the clearing. The camp was practically empty because almost every cat was out diubg something. "Come on, lets go train with your littermates," Gingerspot meowed and waved her tail for her apprentice to follow her.

They walked out into the forest to find the other apprentices. Gingerspot spotted the young cats practicing the hunting crouch in the sandy hollow. She trotted over to almost get tackled by Cloudpaw who clumsily leaped for a piece of moss. "Cloudpaw, you're putting too much weight in your front paws. Put all of your weight on your hind legs to leap more gracefully," Mistyberry meowed.

Cloudpaw nodded and went to go do the leap again. Gingerspot walked past the apprentices to stand beside Mistyberry and Goldenflower. Goldenflower gave a sideways glance to Moonpaw before turned her gaze back to the apprentices. "What are you doing out here Moonpaw?" Mistyberry asked curiously.

Moonpaw looked down at her paws. "She is my apprentice now. She

wants to be a warrior instead of a medicine cat," Gingerspot answered for the she-cat. Moonpaw gave a small nod. Mistyberry narrowed her eyes but didn't say a word. Gingerspot guided Moonpaw out of earshot of the other cats.

"Moonpaw, if you don't want to be a warrior apprentice then please let me know," Gingerspot asked worriedly. Moonpaw shuffled her paws in the dirt, "I-i can't be a medicine cat."

Gingerspot looked at Moonpaw, "Why not? You can trust me Moonpaw."

Moonpaw looked up at Gingerspot and meowed, "Fine I will tell you but you can't tell any cat." Gingerspot nodded solemnly, "I promise."

Chapter 28

[image]

Gingerspot listened intently as Moonpaw went on about how last night at the Moonpool she had a similar vision from when she was a kit. Once Moonpaw said the message was delivered by Berrysplash Gingerspot dropped her gaze sadly. She missed the lively small brown she-cat, but at least she is in a better place now.

"The forest was on fire. And in my first vision I saw you fighting with some other cat. But in my vision last night I was getting burned alive!" Moonpaw meowed with a slight shudder. Gingerspot looked at her thoughtfully, "So I still don't understand why you are training to be a warrior instead of a medicine cat."

Moonpaw looked at her paws, "Before I woke up I heard a cat whisper in my ear *'when the time comes herbs won't be able to save your clan.*' I think Starclan is trying to tell me that I can't be a medicine cat if I want to save Sunclan." "Hmmm...what was the message Berrysplash gave you again?" Gingerspot asked.

"Berrysplash told me, 'Between the clouds and the sun there will be fire. A blazing fire that will tear apart the forest. It will bring darkness and death very quickly. But if the moon shines bright enough then the clouds and the sun will be saved and the blazing fire will be no more. But the moon cannot do it alone. It will need help from two cats that will help defeat the blazing fire,'" Moonpaw meowed.

"Well, I'm no medicine cat but I definitely think the clouds and sun are Clouclan and Sunclan," Gingerspot meowed while licking her paw and drawing it over her ear. Moonpaw stared into the distance, probably deep in thought. She then nodded slowly, "Yes, and maybe I'm the moon. I mean there is no other cat in the two clans with the name 'moon' except me. And I don't know why Berrysplash would tell me if I wasn't the moon."

Gingerspot nodded in agreement. "But who are the other two cats that are supposed to help you defeat this threat?" the ginger and white she-cat asked. Moonpaw shrugged, "I have no idea. Hopefully Starclan will give me a sign."

Gingerspot was about to agree with the gray and white cat when a rustle in a bush behind her made her jump. A heartbeat later Bluepaw padded out into the open. "Mistyberry told me to come tell you two that we are heading back to camp," the blue-ish gray apprentice meowed. "We will be right there shortly," Gingerspot meowed, dismissing the apprentice with a flick of her tail.

Bluepaw dipped her head and turned to disappear into the undergrowth. Gingerspot turned to look at her own apprentice. "We will talk about this more later," she meowed. Moonpaw nodded and they both ran after Bluepaw.

They quickly caught up to the other apprentices and Gingerspot left Moonpaw to go hang out with her littermates while she trotted beside Mistyberry and Goldenflower. "You were talking with Moonpaw for an awfully long time," Goldenflower commented.

"Yeah, I just wanted to know if she was dedicated to becoming a warrior," Gingerspot answered coolly. Mistyberry purred, "I can already tell your going to be a great mentor." Gingerspot purred at the compliment.

Gingerspot and Mistyberry led the way into camp side-by-side. The hunting patrol had already come back with a decent amount of prey. The apprentices immediately rushed over to their mother and father, Snowdrop and Stormcloud. But Moonpaw hung back. Gingerspot lightly nudged the gray and white she-cat, "Don't worry, you don't have to tell your family everything if you don't want to. Just make up a good excuse."

Moonpaw nodded nervously and padded after her littermates. Gingerspot saw Snowdrop pull Moonpaw close to her and begin to lick her ears. Gingerspot purred and went over to the fresh-kill pile. She chose a scrawny thrush and went to go sit down to eat it by herself.

Until Grayfur walked over to her. "May I eat with you?" he asked politely. Gingerspot nodded and settled down beside him. They ate the thrush in silence. Gingerspot licked her lips once her belly was full. Grayfur opened his mouth to say something when six rogues burst into camp.

Gingerspot kept to her paws in shock. What were rogues doing in Sunclans camp? "What are you rogues doing in Sunclans camp?" Brnachstar snarled, speaking Gingerspots thoughts. "To kill every last one of you," a scarred tabby tom growled with a spark of evil in his eyes.

There was a battle cry before the camp bursted into battle. Gingerspot immediately dug her claws into the closest cat. It was a big black and white tom with amber eyes and a long scar down his muzzle. He growled as Gingerspot flipped him onto his belly.

Gingerspot leaped on top of him and raked her claws into his belly repeatedly. The tom yowled in pain. He tried to get free from her grasp but he couldn't. Gingerspot was about to deliver another blow to his belly when something heavy hit her flank.

Gingerspot grunted as she hit the hard earth floor. She gasped for breath as a cat jumped on top of her. She looked up to see a tortoiseshell she-cat. There was hatred and hunger for death in her amber eyes. "I will kill you for tearing my mate to streads!" the tortoiseshell she-cat spat in her face.

Gingerspot screeched in pain as the she-cat drew her sharp claws across her flank. She looked down and saw a long scratch mark from the top of her shoulder all the way down to her hind leg. Gingerspot tried to push herself to her paws but the pain was too great. She gasped as the wound opened up more and a pool of blood started to form around her.

The tortoiseshell she-cat laughed wickedly and walked away, leaving Gingerspot to die.

Gingerspot looked up at the sky. For some reason the sun started to get brighter. It was like it was asking for her. Gingerspot heard a cat yowl her name, but it sounded so far away. She looked around and

saw a cat hovering over her, but her vision was too blurry to see who it was.

Gingerspot was is tired. *I mean, it wouldn't hurt for me to take a short nap.* She closed her eyes and let a swirl of darkness take over her.

Chapter 29

[image]

"Rainshine! Rainshine! Rainshine!" the whole of Cloudclan cheered for the new medicine cat. It was the day after the half moon. Cherrystem had come into camp telling the clan that Rainshine had received her full medicine cat name.

Squirrelleap was delighted to see her friend so happy. She almost jumped out if her fur when she felt a cat brush up against her. She turned her head to see Nightpelt beside her. He flicked her ear with his tail playfully. She purred and sat down next to him.

"Its so good to see the clan so happy for Rainshine," Nightpelt meowed. Squirrelleap purred, "Yes, it is." She was about to go get a nice of fresh-kill when movement at the edge of camp caught her eye. She turned just in time to see a ginger tabby tail disappear into the Holly Tunnel. *Blazeclaw!*

"I will be right back," Squirrelleap meowed to Nightpelt. "Okay. Hey, do you want to meet at the lake at sunhigh to go hunting?" he asked. Squirrelleap purred, "Sure."

She quickly bounded after Blazeclaw. Once out in the pine forest she found his scent almost immediately. She followed it all the way to the border where his scent was the strongest. "Jack, you will be leading the first attack," she heard Blazeclaw meow from up ahead.

Squirrelleap crawled under a bramble bush to hide herself. She then carefully peeked out from under the bush to watch silently. Blazeclaw was sitting with his tail rapped neatly over his paws. Six cats stood in front of him. Squirrelleap wrinkled her nose at the scent of rogue.

A tabby tom was looking at Blazeclaw with an excited gleam in his eyes. "Why Jack? All he does is jump around like a kit," a big black and white tom meowed in annoyance.

"Because I said so. Now, Oreo if you want to disagree with my plans then you may go find your own territory without my help," Blazeclaw growled. The black and white tom, Oreo, dipped his head, "I'm sorry Blazeclaw. I will always agree with you from now on."

Blazeclaw looked pleased at the toms defeat. "Now go, all of you before I rip your pelts off," Blazeclaw growled. The six cats turned and ran into Sunclan territory, not even noticing the border. Squirrelleap held her breath as Blazeclaw padded past the bramble bush where she was hiding and back to camp.

She cautiously crept out from under her hiding place and stared after her brother. *I wonder what he is planning? And what did he mean by attack?* Squirrelleap didn't have an answer to any of her own questions so she shrugged off her worries and walked towards the lake.

She was almost to the lake when a heavy weight knocked into her shoulder. Squirrelleap grunted as a heavy cat stood on top of her. But when she looked up she saw a pair of playful yellow eyes. "I got you!" Nightpelt meowed triumphantly.

"Fine you got me, now get off me you big badger before I claw your ears off," she growled back playfully. Nightpelt crawled off her. Squirrelleap heaved herself to her paws and shook out her pelt. "So where do you want to hunt?" Nightpelt meowed.

"Lets try the marshes," she meowed back. Nightpelt nodded and padded next to her to the marshes on the far side of the territory.

The marshes quickly came into view. Squirrelleap caught the scent of frog and she dropped into a crouch. The fat green creature hopped into veiw a few moments later. Squirrelleap stalked forward on light paws. When she was a few mouse lengths away from it she bunched up her hind legs and leaped.

She landed squarely on top of it and delivered a killing bite to its neck. She quickly buried it and went on hunting with Nightpelt.

At the end of the day she caught a pigeon, a crow, and another frog.

Nightpelt caught a startling and a scrawny rabbit. She and Nightpelt walked into camp with their mouths full with prey. Dustfur padded up to them and purred. "No cat will go hungry tonight," the brown deputy meowed.

Squirrelleap purred through her mouthful of prey. She set her catches down on the fresh-kill pile next to Nightpelt's.

She started to pad away until Nightpelt jumped in front of her. "U-umm, I need to ask y-you something," he stuttered nervously. She looked at him, completely confused.

"But not here, follow me," he meowed and dashed away. Squirrelleap had to run to keep up with him as he ran out of camp and into the pine forest. She almost ran into him when he suddenly stopped in front of the lake.

Nightpelt beckoned for her to sit beside him. She hesitantly sat down beside him and looked out across the lake. The sun was casting out bright colors as it began to set. Nightpelt suddenly turned towards her. Squirrelleap followed his lead and turned to look at him.

The tom had affection showing clearly in his eyes. A peaceful silence fell over the two as they stared into each others eyes. "I need to ask you something," Nightpelt meowed nervously, breaking the silence between them.

"Go ahead," Squirrelleap pressed. Nightpelt looked at his paws but meowed loud and clear, "U-umm Squirrelleap, w-will you be my m-mate?"

Squirrelleap eyes widened in shock. Nightpelt noticed and meowed quickly, "I-I mean you don't have to say yes. We can take it slow and maybe I can ask another..." "Yes," Squirrelleap found herself cutting him off. "W-what?" he asked in disbelief.

"Yes," Squirrelleap meowed again, regaining her thoughts from the shock. Nightpelt's eyes widened with ours joy and he bounced around like a kit. Squirrelleap couldn't hold back a laugh at his silliness.

Nightpelt laughed as well and rubbed her muzzle against her muzzle. Squirrelleap purred and let him rap his tail around her. "I promise to you Squirrelleap that I will protect you at all times and love you till I die," he murmured. Squirrelleap looked up at him, "I have no doubt about it."

Nightpelt purred and pulled her close to him. Squirrelleap felt safe against his muscular body and warm under his soft black fur. They sat together staring at the sunset for what seemed like moons. Until Squirrelleap felt something cold touch her pelt. She looked over to see a speck of white on her dark russet ginger pelt.

Then another and then another. She looked up at the sky and saw thousands of small white flakes floating down to the forest floor. "Its finally starting to snow," Nightpelt meowed. Squirrelleap nodded and shivered. "Lets head back to camp now," Nightpelt meowed as she shivered once more.

Squirrelleap and Nightpelt padded back to camp with the snow falling on their pelts and their tails entwined.

Chapter 30

Moonpaw watched in horror as a totortoiseshell she-cat slashed a gaping wound into Gingerspot's flank. She wanted to go run and help her mentor but she was to shocked to do so. *Go help her,* a voice murmured in Moonpaw's ear.

"B-but I can't fight," she meowed out loud. *I will help you fight, now go help your clanmate,* the voice meowed. Moonpaw looked around for whomever was speaking to her but there was no one. She looked back to Gingerspot. Her mentor was lying in a pool of her own blood.

Moonpaw felt a new fire burn throughout her whole body. With a loud yowl Moonpaw ran into the battle. She heard her littermates call her back but she ignored them. Without thinking she charged into the tortoiseshell she-cat.

The rogue she-cat in surprise and fell to the ground. *Now, she will try to get up so you have to put all of your weight on her,* a cat murmured. Moonpaw let all of her weight fall on top of the she-cat. But the small apprentice just wasn't heavy enough.

The tortoiseshell easily pushed Moonpaw off her back. Moonpaw huffed as she fell on to the ground with a thud. The rogue kept on to Moonpaw and wickedly glanced at Gingerspot's body. "I will kill you just as I did with your friend over there," the tortoiseshell she-cat laughed.

In going to die! Moonpaw thought with horror. *Your not going to die. Try pushing her off of you with your hind legs like you did when you were a kit,* the mysterious voice urged. Moonpaw thought back to when she was play fighting with her littermates and remembered what she had done to Cloudkit.

The rogue she-cat raised her paw to kill Moonpaw but Moonpaw

was faster. She bunched up her hind legs and threw the rogue off of her with great effort. The tortoiseshell went flying into another rogue, who was about to deliver a killing bite to Stormcloud.

Stormcloud leaped to his paws and stared right at Moonpaw with a mixture of relief and shock. Just as her father was about to speak they heard a loud yowl from one of the rogues. "Jack is dead! Retreat!" the rogues immediately dashed out of the Sunclan camp and into the forest.

Moonpaw sighed with relief and looked around the camp. Only the warriors den was slightly torn apart but every other den was fine. Branchstar had a paw on the lead tabbys now dead body.

Moonpaw was snapped back to her main worry when Ivyleaf ran over to Gingerspot's body. Grayfur was already hunched over the she-cat and looked up with desperate eyes as Ivyleaf came over. Moonpaw padded up more slowly.

"Is she going to be okay?" Moonpaw murmured nervously. Ivyleaf was chewing up a herb that Moonpaw recognized as marigold. Then she spat it into Gingerspot's wound and packed it with cobwebs.

When Ivyleaf didn't answer Grayfur looked up at the medicine cat. "Is she going to be okay?" he asked in a panicked voice. Ivyleaf looked up at the tom, "I don't know until we move her to the medicine den." Grayfur immediately jumped up and looked around. Moonpaw saw Briarwing checking over Lionfur, Flameheart was still rapped around her two kits protectively, and Snowdrop was worriedky checking over Moonpaw's littermates.

Grayfur dashed over to Stromcloud. "Can you please help me carry Gingerspot to the medicine den," the dark gray tabby tom meowed desperately. Stormcloud narrowed his eyes at the former loner but still followed him to where his former apprentice lay.

Moonpaw held her breath as the two toms pick up the ginger and white she-cat and carried her to the medicine den with Ivyleaf trailing behind them. A trail of blood marked where they had gone.

Moonpaw almost fell over when Snowdrop rushed over to her and

accidentally shoved her. "Are you alright? I saw you fighting with that tortoiseshell she-cat rogue all by yourself. Are you hurt?" her mother asked while looking her up and down for injuries.

The gray and white apprentice strangely felt no pain on her body. No scratches and blood. Even though she was fighting a full grown cat. Surely she should have at least some injuries. Snowdrop then stopped what she was doing and looked at Moonpaw with confusion and disbelief.

"You don't have a single scratch on your body," she murmured in disbelief. Moonpaw didn't know why she didn't have any injuries but why was her mother so surprised? "Umm well I didn't fight for kind the the rogue didn't do anything to me," she meowed nervously. Her mother looked unconvinced.

Moonpaw suddenly felt something cold and wet fall on to her pelt. She looked around but saw nothing. Then another one touched her, then another and then another. She looked up into the sky and saw thousands of tiny white flakes falling down to her. Moonpaw stuck her tongue out and gasped as a flake fell on her tongue.

"Its called snow," Snowdrop purred in amusement. Moonpaw jumped around like a newborn kit as the snow kept falling down. Stormcloud was now beside Snowdrop watching her closely.

Moonpaw purred as Bluepaw came up beside her and looked at the falling snow with wide eyes. Snow was probably their new favorite thing.

Heads up

Okay so for every chapter I will be putting up a picture of each character in my book so you get a better image of what they look like!!! 👍🏽👍🏽👍🏽👍🏽

Characters part 4

Duncan:

Leader: Branchstar - white tom with brown paws, ears, and tail-tip

Deputy: Stormcloud - light gray tom with black stripes

Medicine cat: Ivyleaf - black and white she-cat with green eyes

Warriors:

Smokefur - dark gray tom with a shorty stubby tail
Snowdrop - white she-cat with black spots on her pelt
Goldenflower - white and ginger she-cat (Reedpaw)
Mistyberry - gray and cream she-cat (Cloudpaw)
Gingerspot - long furred ginger and white she-cat (Moonpaw)
Lionfur - yellow tom (Bluepaw)
Grayfur - dark gray tabby tom

Apprentices:

Bluepaw - blue-ish gray she-cat
Cloudpaw- white tom
Reedpaw - black tom
Moonpaw - gray and white she-cat

Queens:

Flameheart - dark ginger she-cat (Harekit - tan and white tom-kit, Owlkit - brown tom)

Briarwing - brown and white she-cat

Cloudclan:

Leader: Whitestar - big white tom

Deputy: Dustfur - dusty brown tom (Redpaw)

Medicine cats:
Cherrystem - red-ish brown she-cat with black spots on her pelt

Rainshine - gray she-cat

Warriors:

Mouseears - brown and white she-cat with small ears (Fishpaw)
Thorntail - gray and white tom
Nightpelt - black tom (Hollypaw)
Blazeclaw - yellow tom with light ginger stripes
Squirrelleap - dark russet ginger she-cat

Apprentices:

Redpaw - red-ish brown tom
Hollypaw - mostly black tortoiseshell she-cat
Fishpaw - cream colored tom

Queens:

Rosethorn - brown she-cat

Chapter 31

[image]

⬆⬆⬆Gingerspot!!!!

Did I die? If I died then why am I not in Starclan? Gingerspot only could see blackness. She felt warmth against her back and she could hear cats talking. "I am here to see Gingerspot," a cat meowed.

"You have come in here at least three times a day for three days, its starting to get cramped in here and she needs to rest to recover," a cat grumbled. Gingerspot desperately wanted to open her eyes to see the cats talking. She felt like a newborn kit, barely old enough to see the world for themselves.

"Just let her keep coming. Gingerspot needs all the support she can get to make it through this," a soothing and calm voice meowed. This voice was familiar. It was sweet like honey and Gingerspot wanted to see the cat who just spoke.

With all of her might she held her breath and lifted up her eye lids to look around. She saw Ivyleaf and Moonpaw with a mixture of shock and happiness. "Your awake!" Moonpaw meowed happily. "I'm going to go tell Branchstar," Ivyleaf breathed and raced away.

"Where am I?" Gingerspot croaked, not realizing how weak she felt. "Your in the medicine den," the same soothing voice meowed from behind her. She turned her head and almost bumped noses with Grayfur. Gingerspot was caught in the depths of the handsome toms emerald green eyes.

Moonpaw purred with amusement,"I will leave you two alone." Gingerspot slightly nodded while still staring at Grayfur.

"How did I get in the medicine den?" Gingerspot meowed, breaking the moment between them. For a split second the horrible event caused pain to flash in his eyes, but a heartbeat later it was gone. "I protected you while you were unconcious. Then Stormcloud helped

me carry you here," he meowed.

Gingerspot nodded slowly. Then she realized something. Grayfur was laying beside jer and his whole body was rapped around her protectively.

Grayfur seemed to notice as well as he jumped to his paws and gave her some space. "S-sorry about t-that. U-umm I'm going to get you something eat n-now," he stuttered awkwardly and scrambled out of the den. Gingerspot watched him go silently. "You know, he lost it when you fell unconscious," a cat meowed.

A moment later Briarwing padded into the den. "Did he really?" Gingerspot gasped. The brown and white queen purred, "Yep. He saw you get hurt and stayed by your side the whole time. Then when the battle was over he starting freaking out because he though you were going to die." Gingerspot thought about this for awhile. Ever since their first meeting when he was a prisoner the tom had shown affection for her. *I mean when I think about him my heart flutters a little bit and I get nervous but its not that big if a deal...Oh no! Am I in love?*

"I think he likes you," Briarwing meowed. Gingerspot looked at her paws as her friend studied her closely. "And I think you like him," Briarwing purred. Gingerspot felt her fur grow hot, "W-what! No I d-dont think s-so." Briarwing laughed and flicked her tail, "Whatever. Well I have to go now, but I'll come back and visit."

Gingerspot nodded and watched her friend exit the medicine den. Moonpaw padded past Briarwing into the medicine den. "Where did Grayfur go?" Moonpaw half meowed half purred. Gingerspot rolled her eyes at the apprentice, "Just went to go get me something to eat and nothing more."

Moonpaw gave her an amused look before sitting down in front of her. "So, how are you feeling?" she asked. Gingerspot shrugged, "Tired and in pain." Moonpaw purred and then suddenly turned serious. "So after you went unconscious I decided to go and fight," the small cat meowed.

"What! But you don't know how to fight yet. Did you get hurt?"

Gingerspot meowed worriedly. Moonpaw shook her head, "I know but that's the problem. I took on a full grown cat and defeated her. But I also came out with not a single scratch on my body."

Gingerspot's eyes widened in disbelief and amazement. "B-but that's not possible," she breathed. "Well now it is," Moonpaw meowed bluntly.

Gingerspot pondered on this for a while. *Should I tell her about the Starclan cats I've seen or will she think I'm being ridiculous? Well its worth a try.* "Hey Moonpaw...." she trailed off as Grayfur padded into the den with a thrush in his jaws and Ivyleaf at his side.

Moonpaw glanced at Gingerspot. Gingerspot just shook her head and turned to Grayfur. "Here's a thrush to fill your belly," he meowed and dropped the prey in front of her. She purred, "Thank you Grayfur." The tom seemed to blush at her words.

"I was beginning to think you might be lonely forever Gingerspot. I changed my mind though," Ivyleaf laughed. Gingerspot shyly looked at Grayfur. She could feel the heat radiating off of his pelt. The dark gray tabby tom awkwardly shuffled his paws in the dirt, "I-I'm going to go now. I'll come back later and check on you Gingerspot."

Grayfur quickly walked out of the medicine den. "Ok so what were you going to tell me," Moonpaw asked curiously. Gingerspot couldn't remember what she wanted to tell her apprentice. "Umm I don't know anymore, but when I remember I will let you know," she meowed.

Moonpaw nodded and headed herself to her paws. "Well, I have to go. I'm supposed to be training with Bluepaw and Lionfur today," she meowed and padded out into the clearing.

Gingerspot rested her head on her so we and looked straight ahead at nothing specific. She felt tired. Very tired. The ginger and white she-cat closed her eyes and was greeted by a peaceful darkness.

Chapter 32

[image]

Squirrelleap!!!!! Sorry the picture is so big...I don't know how to get it smaller...oh and Squirrelleap actually has amber eyes so yeah.

"Let all cats old enough to catch their own prey gather beneath the Greatrock for a clan meeting," Whitestar's voice rang throughout camp.

Squirrelleap looked up from her half eaten crow. Nightpelt looked down at her expectantly. "You can eat later, come one, I think Redpaw is becoming a warrior," the black tom said while nudging her to her feet. Squirrelleap grumbled before following him to sit beside her clanmates.

Redpaw sat beside Hollypaw and Fishpaw at the very front of the crowd. "Redpaw, will you please step forward," Whitestar meowed. The red-ish brown tom excitedly bounced forward.

"I, Whitestar, leader of Cloudclan call upon my warrior ancestors to look down on this apprentice. He has trained hard to learn the ways of your noble code and I commend him as a warrior in his turn."

"Redpaw, do you promise to uphold the warrior code and protect your clan even at the cost of your own life?"

Redpaw nodded, "I do."

Whitestar gave an approving nod before continuing, "Then by the powers of Starclan I give you your warrior name. Redpaw, from this day forward you will be known as Redfang. We honor your commitment and loyalty as we welcome you as a full warrior of Cloudclan."

Whitestar gently touched his nose to the new warriors head and

received a lick to the shoulder. Squirrelleap joined in cheering for the warrior. "Redfang! Redfang! Redfang!"

The red-ish brown tom lifted his head with pride.

A half a moon has passed since Squirrelleap saw Blazeclaw with those six rogues. She half expected for the rogues to attack Cloudclan but nothing has happened, yet.

Nightpelt looked at her with those perfect yellow eyes. The sun was setting as Redfang moved towards the Holly Tunnel. "Come on, lets go get some rest. The gathering is tomorrow," the black tom meowed.

Squirrelleap nodded and followed him into the warriors den. She sighed in relief as she saw their nest. About five moons ago Squirrelleap had started sharing a nest with Nightpelt since they were now mates. She tried to not to step on any cats tail as she approached the nest. It was big enough to fit them both and had fresh moss and black feathers to line it.

Nightpelt let her lay more to the center of the den so she could be warmer than him. Squirrelleap layed down and curled up into a ball. She purred as Nightpelt rapped himself around her and set his chin on her shoulder. He licked her ear before closing his eyes.

Squirrelleap waited until she could hear his breathing slow before she closed her eyes and fell into a peaceful sleep.

The next day came fast and the whole camp was buzzing with activity. Squirrelleap sat grooming her fur beside Nightpelt as they waited for Whitestar to announce who was going to the gathering.

She suddenly noticed Blazeclaw eyeing Dustfur from across the clearing. Redfang was beside him, doing the same. "What's up with Blazeclaw and Redfang?" she meowed out loud. Nightpelt looked at what she was seeing and shrugged. "Don't know. But don't worry about them," he meowed.

Squirrelleap looked back to the two toms. They were now talking to

each other quietly. "Lets all cats gather beneath the Great Rock to see who will be going to the gathering," the Cloudclan leader yowled.

Squirrelleap and Nightpelt rose to their paws and sat beside Hollypaw and Fishpaw who were looking up at Whitestar eagerly. "Myself, Dustfur, Cherrystem, Rainshine, Squirrelleap, Nightpelt, Redfang, and Hollypaw will be going to the gathering," Whitestar meowed.

An angry yowl followed his words. Every cat turned to see who had made the noise. Blazeclaw was standing beside Redfang with his fur bristling and his claws were digging into the ground. "Why am I not going to the gathering?" Blazeclaw growled in a low voice. "Because I want other cats to go to the gathering. Anyways you went to the last gathering," Whitestar meowed coolly.

"But Squirrelleap has been to two gatherings in a row! How dare you choose that flea-bag over me," Blazeclaw growled. Squirrelleap's fur began to bristle at the insult. "I would never choose her over you. I leave you here so you can protect the camp and I'm sure you want to stay with Rosethorn," Whitestar meowed.

Squirrelleap growled and glared at the two toms. "How dare you two speak about Squirrelleap like that. She is your kin! You should care for her not hate her," Nightpelt yowled before any other cat could sleep. "*She* is not my kin. She is just another cat that I dipise," Blazeclaw meowed with a flick of his tail.

Squirrelleap bared her teeth at him and sat back down beside her mate. Whitestar had laughter in his eyes at the sight of his two kits fighting. But it was an evil laugh.

As the sun began to set the gathering cats clustered at the camp entrance. Hollypaw looked up at Nightpelt with excited eyes. "I can't wait to see if Sunclan has any new apprentices!" the mostly black tortoiseshell she-cat meowed excitedly. Squirrelleap purred with amusement.

"I'm sure they do," Nightpelt meowed back. "Cloudclan, its time to leave," Whitestar's voice rang throughout the camp. Squirrelleap

looked to Nighpelt as they raced out of camp. It was cold now that leaf-bare was finally upon them. Snow covered every inch of the forest floor. The prey was probably hiding safely in their dens. The snow was deep but it wasn't that bad for full grown cats.

Squirrelleap held back a laugh as she saw Hollypaw jumping high in the air to avoid sinking into the snow. The cold made her shiver and she puffed her pelt out to stay a little bit warmer. Nightpelt's fur brushes against hers. "I'll keep you warm," he meowed. Squirrelleap purred and moved closer towards him. The two had grown quite close since they became mates.

They would do everything together. Hunt, patrolled, slept, and even ate together. Squirrelleap felt comfortable with him.

They were soon to the treebridge and quickly climbed across. Sunclan was already there as the Cloudclan cats pushed through into the clearing. Whitestar bounded past Branchstar and climbed onto the Great Oak. "Lets get this over with. I'm freezing," Whitestar meowed through clenched teeth.

Squirrelleap sat beside Nightpelt as Branchstar climbed up beside Whitestar. Whitestar motioned for the Sunclan leader to go first. "We have four new apprentices. Bluepaw, Cloudpaw, Reedpaw, and Moonpaw," the leader meowed. Squirrelleap joined in cheering for the new apprentices. She spotted the four cats sitting beside Hollypaw and Fishpaw with their heads high.

"I also have another announcement. A group of six rogues barged into our camp half a moon ago. They claimed they came to kill us but Sunclan took them on with full force. Gingerspot was the only cat who got seriously injured. But I wanted to warn Cloudclan about a threat that might still be close by," Branchstar meowed. Squirrelleap felt suspicion creep under her skin. Half a moon ago she saw Blazeclaw speaking to six rogues. *If Blazeclaw has anything to do with Gingerspot almost dying then I will claw of his pelt and line my nest with his fur!*

Whitestar narrowed his eyes at the Sunclan leader. "Are you saying we are too weak to handle a new threat on our own so you just were offering us help?" Whitestar growled through narrowed eyes.

"I was not implying that at all," Branchstar answered back calmly.

Whitestar glared at him for a moment longer before turning back to the gathering cats. "We have a new warrior, Redfang," he meowed. The clearing cheered the warriors name into the night sky. "Cloudclan, we're leaving," Whitestar meowed when the clearing had quieted down.

Squirrelleap followed Nightpelt over to their gathered clan and prepared to threk back home in the icy cold weather.

Chapter 33

[image]

⬆⬆⬆Moonpaw!!

Moonpaw shivered as snow fell on her pelt. Her fur was long but the cold still crept all the way down to her bones. She huddled beside Reedpaw as they silently listened to the older warriors talk to one another.

"So, Lionfur, how was the gathering last night? Anything interesting?" Flameheart asked curiously. Lionfur shrugged, "Branchstar brought up the rogue attack." "Redpaw became Redfang," Snowdrop cut in. Flameheart scrunched up her nose in disgust. "That excuse of a cat doesn't deserve to be made a warrior," the ginger queen spat.

Moonpaw flinched at her harsh words. *I don't think I've ever seen sweet old Flameheart get so upset over something so little. I wonder what there history is with each other?* Moonpaw wondered. She suddenly gasped with surprise as someone tugged on her tail. She turned her head and saw Harekit batting at her tail.

The kit looked up at her when she stopped moving her tail. "Sorry Moonpaw. I just wanted to practice being a warrior since Branchstar is so busy all of the time," Harekit mewed. Moonpaw felt bad for the kit. His father was leader so he never had time for his own kits. "Well I can play with you," Moonpaw offered.

Harekit's eyes lit up with delight. The kit immediately jumped onto her. She gasped and dramatically fell to the ground. Harekit squealed and climbed onto her belly. "Reedpaw help me," Moonpaw cried out. The black tom chuckled, "I rather watch." Moonpaw playfully growled at her brother and turned back to Harekit. "Moonpaw!" a cat called for her across the clearing.

Moonpaw rolled away from Harekit and looked towards the voice. Grayfur stood beside the medicine den looking at her expectantly. "I'm sorry but I have to go Harekit," she meowed apologetically. The tom-kit looked at his paws with disappointment but quickly changed his attitude when Reedpaw offered to play with him.

Moonpaw walked up to Grayfur and purred, "Look who's finally left Gingerspot's side." Grayfur looked embarrassed but gave her a stern look. "Gingerspot needs to talk to you," he meowed. Moonpaw followed him into the den to see her mentor sitting up in her nest. "Your looking much better," Moonpaw commented. Gingerspot purred, "I am feeling much better. Now, come sit." Moonpaw obeyed and sat down in front of her mentor.

Grayfur flicked his tail in a goodbye before leaving the den. "I can see dead cats," Gingerspot blurted out when Grayfur was gone. Moonpaw's eyes widened. "How many have you seen?" she breathed. "I've only seen two. It was the day Berrysplash died and I saw her get out of her body and walk away with a cat that looked just like her," Gingerspot shivered.

"Well maybe it was just a one time thing," Moonpaw meowed reassuringly. Gingerspot sighed, "I don't think so. It feels like I can see dead cats for a reason. And no other cat saw Berrysplash get up and walk away." Moonpaw shrugged, "Maybe Starclan will send us a sign." "I really hope so because I need to know if I'm different."

Moonpaw nodded and looked towards the entrance to the medicine den. "Well I have to go now. I'll come back and visit," she meowed. Gingerspot nodded and stared after her apprentice.

Moonpaw nodded to Grayfur as she exited the den. The dark gray tabby nodded back and went into the den. Moonpaw saw Bluepaw sitting all by herself so she went to go sit with her. The blue-ish gray she-cat purred as her sister joined her. "So, how's Gingerspot?" Bluepaw asked. "She is doing much better. She should be able to go back to warrior duties in a few sunrises," Moonpaw meowed.

Bluepaw purred, "That's good. Oh, hey do you want to go hunting with me and Lionfur. He says we need all the prey we can get since its leaf-bare. More paws more prey." Moonpaw nodded and padded

after her sister to go meet with Lionfur for some hunting.

Chapter 34

[image]

Grayfur!!! But he has like emerald green eyes.

Gingerspot winced as snow wedged up into her paw pads. The sun had just risen and the snow had come down hard last night.

Today was her first day back doing warrior duties. She was on the dawn patrol and snow was everywhere. Cloudpaw hissed when his paw got caught in a tree root which was covered by snow.

The sun was barely visible behind the gray clouds. There was no prey to be seen and every cat in the clan started to show starvation. "I think my tail is going to freeze and fall off if we don't get this over with soon," Mistyberry grumbled.

Stormcloud chuckled and looked at the cream and gray she-cat. "I will make sure we go fast so your tail doesn't fall off," he laughed. Mistyberry purred and looked to Cloudpaw. The small white tom was slightly limping. "Cloudpaw are you alright?" Mistyberry asked in a worried voice. Cloudpaw winced as he put weight on his back left paw. "I'm fine," he growled through clenched teeth.

Stormcloud stopped to examine Cloudpaw. "You need to go back to camp so Ivyleaf can inspect that paw," the deputy meowed sternly. Cloudpaw opened his mouth to argue but thought better of it as he limped back to camp.

"Now lets get this patrol over with," Stromcloud meowed and led the patrol forward.

Gingerspot was exhausted and cold when they finally got back to camp. A hunting patrol was just leaving as she padded over to the fresh-kill pile. Only a few pieces of prey lay on the scrappy pile. "Hey, do you want to share this robin?" a familiar voice asked form

behind her. Gingerspot whirled around and saw Grayfur with a very thin robin in his jaws.

"Sure," she meowed. He grinned and led her towards a small rock outside the warriors den. He set the robin down and they settled down together to eat the robin. "So how have you liked clan life so far?" Gingerspot meowed. Grayfur shrugged, "I like it but I think it would be way more interesting if I had someone to share it with." Gingerspot didn't know why but her fur began to get hot. She was almost for sure her fur was so hot the snow under her was melting. Grayfur seemed to notice as he looked at the robin and took a bite.

"Gingerspot, can you meet me at the Sunoak at moonhigh tonight?" he blurted out randomly. Gingerspot gave him a confused glance. "Umm of course," she answered. The dark gray tabby tom relaxed at her agreement to meet him. She opened her mouth to say something when a screech interrupted her.

Gingerspot and Grayfur jumped to their paws and looked around with wide eyes. Another cry echoed around the clearing. Gingerspot looked around and saw Briarwing crouching beside Lionfur, who was standing beside her. Ivyleaf came rushing out of her den and immediately raced over Brairwing.

"Her kits are coming," Ivyleaf meowed, loud enough for every cat to hear her. Gingerspot glanced at Grayfur and padded closer to see if she could help. Lionfur's gaoed in shock. "What! The kits can't be coming yet," he meowed. "Well they are and they won't wait for an invitation. We need to move her to the nursery," Ivyleaf meowed urgently.

Without an order Gingerspot walked forward and helped Lionfur move Briarwing into the nursery. Briarwing had a pained look in her eyes but nodded to Gingerspot as she set her in the nest. "Come see my kits when there born," Briarwing croaked. Gingerspot purred, "Of course."

Gingerspot heard a yowl from her friend as she padded out of the nursery. Lionfur followed her and started to pace in front of the den. She purred and went to go finish her robin in silence.

The moon was just rising as Gingerspot walked through the forest. She shivered as the cold night air pierced through her fur. The snow crunched underneath her paws as she made her way to the Sunoak.

The huge oak came into sight quickly as she got closer to the river. She was about a fox-length away from the oak when something slammed into her side. She gasped as she was pushed to the ground and snow clogged up her fur.

Gingerspot relaxed when she heard an amused purr come from her attacker. "Get off of me Grayfur," she growled back playfully. The tom laughed and climbed off of her. Gingerspot got to her paws and shook out her pelt. Snow flew onto Grayfur's pelt, making him laugh.

Gingerspot rolled her eyes at him. "Come with me," Grayfur meowed and beckoned with his tail for her to follow him. Gingerspot padded after him through the deep snow.

They soon reached the river, which was a little ways past the Sunoak. Gingerspot stopped beside Grayfur to look down into the water. Then suddenly his paw swiped out as quickly as lightening into the freezing water. When he brought his paw out a silver fish flopped onto bank beside them. Grayfur quickly killed it with a bite to its neck.

"I didn't know you could fish," she gasped. Grayfur gave her an amused look, "I can teach you if you want." Gingerspot purred and looked down into the water. "Ok so stay perfectly still and wait for a fish to swim by. But make sure your shadow isn't casted on the waters surface or the fish will see it and run away. When your ready just lash out your paw and hook the fish with your claw," Grayfur instructed.

Gingerspot nodded. She crouched beside the river and waited. It seemed like moons before a fish approached her. She quickly lashed out her paw like Grayfur told her to. Gingerspot felt her claw hook into the scaly fish. She clenched her teeth as she pulled her paw out of the ivy water with the fish caught on her claw. She threw the

riggly creature on the ground beside her and quickly killed it with a bite to its neck.

"Your a natural!" Grayfur purred. Gingerspot held her head high proudly. Grayfur laughed and sat at the rivers bank, looking up at the shining quarter moon. Gingerspot sat down beside him and joined in looking at the moon.

"Gingerspot, I brought you here to tell you something," Grayfur meowed after a few moments of silence. Gingerspot turned to face him.

Grayfur took a deep nervous breath before looking straight into her eyes, "Gingerspot, from the moment I attacked you at the border I have liked you. A lot. When I'm around you my heart flutters and I get nervous. When you almost died thats when I realized I can't live without you. Gingerspot, I'm in love with you."

Gingerspot felt her heart skip a beat. Everything she had been feeling since she met him now made since. "I-I-I'm in love with you too," she stammered, not even knowing she was going to say that. Grayfur's eyes light up into tiny emerald green stars. "I wasn't planning this but in that case, Gingerspot, will you be my mate?" he meowed with a hint of nervousness in his voice.

Gingerspot found herself purring loudly, "Yes." Grayfur bounced around like a newborn kit who had just come out of the nursery. Gingerspot laughed and rubbed her muzzle against his. In that moment all that mattered was them. The moon shone brightly upon them both. Gingerspot sat close against him, taking in his warmth.

"I promise that I will do everything in my power to always make you happy," he meowed. She looked up and was caught in his beautiful emerald green eyes. "I know you will," she meowed. He purred and locked her cheek affectionately.

Gingerspot sat beside Grayfur looking out over the river and into the unknown territory yet to be explored.

Chapter 35

[image]

⬆⬆Dustfur!!

Squirrelleap stretched out beside Nightpelt. The sun was slightly out and they were taking advantage of it. The snow had been quite heavy the last couple of days and the camp was covered with it. "How long before Rosethorn has her kits?" Nightpelt asked curiously with his eyes half way closed.

Squirrelleap batted his ear with her paw, "Why are you asking me, I'm no medicine cat." "Thank goodness your not because every cat would have to deal with you sassiness," Nightpelt laughed. Squirrelleap purred.

It was sunhigh and a hunting patrol was padding into camp. Only Thorntail and Blazeclaw held prey in there jaws. Dustfur gave the two toms an approving nod. The deputy then looked around camp and his gaze landed on Squirrelleap and Nightpelt.

"Squirrelleap, come join me on a border patrol," Dustfur called across the camp. Squirrelleap sighed and climbed to her paws. "Make sure not to trip over your own paws," Nightpelt teased. Squirrelleap rolled her eyes at him and padded over to where Dustfur sat under the Great rock.

Mouseears and Fishpaw joined them shortly after. The border patrol made there way out of camp and into the cold pine forest.

Squirrelleap puffed out her fur to stay warm in the cold weather. Dustfur didn't stop as they made there way to the Sunclan border. The Cloudclan deputy sniffed along the border. He suddenly rose his head sharply, his fur bristling and his ears pricked.

"What's wrong Dustfur?" Squirrelleap asked in a hushed voice.

Dustfur raised his tail for every cat to stop what they were doing. Squirrelleap opened her mouth to smell the air. She almost gagged at the smell that filled her mouth and nose. *Rogues!*

Like she summoned them a moment later six rogues showed themselves. The lead cat was a big black and white tom who looked sttangely familiar. Then it struck her. *Oreo! He was talking to Blazeclaw the day I saw them. But hold up, where's Jack?*

Squirrelleap felt her fur bristle as the rogues took a step closer to them. "Why are you on Cloudclan territory?" Dustfur snarled.

Oreo snickered evily, "Don't you know. We came to kill you all." With that Squirrelleap yowled and launched herself at a random rogue. Her claws snagged onto a long furred gray she-cat who was running towards Fishpaw.

"Fishpaw, go get reinforcements," Squirrelleap yowled. She saw the apprentice nod and run back to camp before she was pushed to the ground by the rogue she-cat.

Squirrelleap was too late when the she-cat pinned her down. She tried to riggle free from her grip but it was no use. The gray she-cat laughed and bent down to whisper in her ear. "Do you want me to tell you a little secret?" the she-cat snickered.

Squirrelleap didn't have time to answer as the she-cat continued. "A friend of mine killed a ginger and white she-cat in that other group of cats. Gosh she was helpless, you should have seen the look on her face," the gray she-cat laughed.

Squirrelleap gasped in horror. Her sister couldn't be dead, could she? A new fire burned through Squirrelleap's veins. She snarled and threw the rogue off of her. The rogue went flying. Squirrelleap bounded over to her and started to take her claws through her belly fur.

"S-stop!" the rogue she-cat cryed. But Squirrelleap didn't seem to hear her as she kept on going. Until the gray she-cat suddenly went limp. Squirrelleap climbed off of her and widened her eyes with horror and fear. *D-did I just kill a cat!*

She stood there for a few moments until she heard the nearby bushes russle. A heart-beat later Blazeclaw, Redfang, Nightpelt, and Hollypaw burst through the undergrowth. Nightpelt immediately rushed over to Squirrelleap.

She was panting and her pelt was sticky with the she-cat's blood. "You need to rest," Nightpelt ushered gently. "Rogues, retreat!"

Squirrelleap sighed with relief as the rogues began to scurry away, except for one tom. It was a ginger tabby tom and he sorrowfully picked up the she-cat Squirrelleap had killed.

"You will pay for killing Sass," he snarled before following after his rogue friends.

Squirrelleap flopped down beside Nightpelt. Images of her raking her claws through the rogues belly haunted her vision. She didn't even notice Nightpelt cleaning her fur.

She wanted to fall asleep but a horrible cry stopped her. Squirrelleap lifted her head to see who had cryed out. Her eyes landed on a painfully familiar dusty brown pelt.

Squirrelleap got to her paws and padded over. Hollypaw was crouched beside a limp body. Squirrelleap gasped and sat beside her. Dustfur's eyes were open but they were looking at nothing. His fur was ruffled and covered with his own blood. There was a large cut through his throat.

Blazeclaw stared at the body before turning towards Redfang and Nightpelt. "Lets get him back to camp," he meowed. The two toms nodded and picked up there beloved deputy.

Squirrelleap let her head and tail droop sadly as they padded back to camp. She winced painfully as she heard gasps and yowls of disbelief as they walked into camp.

Once Nightpelt and Redfang had set Dustfur's body in the middle of the camp Squirrelleap stumbled over to her mate. He gazed at her sadly and sat down beside her. Whitestar padded out of his den and had a hint of sadness in his usually careless amber eyes.

The whole clan began to gather around Dustfur's body to pay there respects and start his vigil. Cherrystem seemed the most upset as she curled up beside the deputies body.

Squirrelleap stirred beside Nightpelt as Cherrystem rose to her paws and faced Whitestar with a serious expression on her face. "Whitestar, I know this is against the medicine cat code but me and Dustfur were mates," Cherrystem announced.

The whole clan seemed to gasp at the medicine cats announcement. Rainshine quickly padded up beside her mentor and stared up at Whitestar bravely. "Whitestar, please don't punish Cherrystem. She didn't have kits and her mate just died. So technically she doesn't have a mate anymore so she isn't breaking the rules," Rainshine meowed frantically.

Whitestar seemed to think about this for moons until he finally answered, "Very well but Cherrystem you cannot go to another gathering until I say so."

Cherrystem nodded and went back to grieving for her mate.

Rainshine looked around the clan for cats to heal and her eyes landed on Squirrelleap. Squirrelleap didn't even notice Rainshine as she approached her. "Squirrelleap, why don't you come into my den so I can heal your wounds," Rainshine meowed.

Squirrelleap didn't even nod as she was lifted by Nightpelt and guided into the medicine den. Nightpelt let her lay in a nest until Rainshine got the herbs she needed. Rainshine quickly returned with poppy seeds rapped in a leaf.

"Now, eat those," Rainshine instructed. Squirrelleap lapped up the poppy seeds and sat back down in the nest. Rainshine eyed the she-cats belly. "There is something important I need to tell you Squirrelleap but I don't know if you want me to say it in front of Nightpelt," the gray she-cat meowed.

Nightpelt smoothed Squirrelleap's fur with his tail. "You can say it in front of both of us," Squirrelleap meowed in an exhausted voice. Rainshine purred, "Okay. Squirrelleap, your expecting kits."

Squirrelleap seemed to be snapped out of her shock at the medicine cats words. No wonder she had gotten fatter in the last couple of days. "Really?!" Nightpelt breathed. "Yes," Rainshine purred. Squirrelleap smiled and turned to Nightpelt.

The tom looked like he was about to bounce all over the medicine den. Squirrelleap purred and pushed her muzzle into his chest fur.

Nightpelt purred so loudly she was sure cats from Sunclan could hear him. "Your going to be the best mother ever," he meowed. Squirrelleap moved closer to him. "And you will be the best father ever," she purred.

Even with the sadness outside the den Squirrelleap felt comforted with this wonderful news.

But then something else seemed to weigh her heart down. *Is Gingerspot really dead?*

Chapter 36

[image]

Briarwing !

"Oh my Starclan that's wonderful!" Moonpaw exclaimed happily. Gingerspot purred and looked down at her apprentice. "I know he will be a great mate," Moonpaw meowed.

Gingerspot opened her mouth to reply when Grayfur padded up the two she-cats. "Do you want to start making our new nest?" Grayfur asked awkwardly. Moonpaw nodded when Gingerspot looked to her. The apprentice watched as her mentor happily bounded after her mate.

Moonpaw almost fell over when Bluepaw rushed past her. "Hey, why are you in such a rush?" Moonpaw asked. "I'm going to see Briarwing's kits," her sister meowed while walking towards the nursery. Moonpaw quickly jumped to her paws and followed her sister over to the nursery.

The nursery was the strongest den in the camp in order to keep all of the kits and queens safe in harsh conditions. The den was built with brambles and a lot of bracken. Moonpaw trailed after Bluepaw into the den. She was greeted with the strong scent of milk. At the far left side of the den was a nest where Flameheart and her two kits slept. Closer to the middle was another nest where Briarwing was curled around three tiny kits.

"Their beautiful Briarwing," Bluepaw purred. Moonpaw nodded, "Have you named them?" Briarwing nodded and pointed with her tail to a large sandy colored tom-kit, "This is Breezekit." Lionfur was laying beside Briarwing and looked down at a tabby yellow tom-kit with one white paw, "That is Beekit." Briarwing lightly touched her nose to the final kit. It was a small light brown she-kit with a white tail-tip, "And this is Fernkit."

"Those are beautiful names," Moonpaw purred. Briarwing licked Fernkit's head fondly. Lionfur licked the top of Briarwing's head before standing up and looking at Bluepaw. "Come on, lets go learn some battle moves," the yellow tom meowed. Bluepaw gave an excited bounce and exited out if the den after her mentor.

Moonpaw followed after them into the clearing. She looked around and searched for Gingerspot but she couldn't find the ginger and white she-cat. *Well since I can't find Gingerspot I will just go for a quick walk.* Moonpaw looked around one last time before trotting out of camp.

She hated snow. It was cold and wet and it made her fur all spiky. She huffed. A cloud of her own breath spiraled out of her mouth and nose when she breathed.

Moonpaw had to hop in the snow due to how small she was. She almost crossed over the border when she hopped to far. Luckily she stopped herself in time. For a second Moonpaw didn't even know where she was until she smelled the strong scent of Cloudclan. She sat down and looked over the border. It was peaceful in the pine forest.

She faintly saw a cluster of fallen pine needles fly into the air. Moonpaw squinted and realized something was causing the needles to fly up. A moment later an outline of a cat appeared into view. Moonpaw squinted even more and saw a dark russet ginger she-cat. *Squirrelleap!*

Squirrelleap was charging towards Moonpaw. The apprentice held her breath when she realized the Cloudclan she-cat wasn't slowing down. "Hey, Squirrelleap, slow down or you will cross the border!" Moonpaw yowled.

Thankfully the she-cat seemed to hear her when she skidded to a stop a mouse-length away from the border. Squirrelleap was panting heavily from her run. Moonpaw narrowed her eyes when the Cloudclan she-cat glanced over the border uncertainty.

Suddenly, without warning, Squirrelleap bolted across the border. "Squirrelleap!" Moonpaw yowled. The she-cat didn't stop. Moonpaw

growled and raced after her. It was hard for Moonpaw to keep up with the fast cat since she was so small.

But she relaxed when the camp walls came into view. Squirrelleap burst into camp just a few moments before Moonpaw did. Every cat turned with wide eyes to look at them both. "Why is *she* here?" Some cat hissed. Squirrelleap's fur was on end and her eyes were wild.

Moonpaw was panting when Branchstar pushed out of his den to inspect Squirrelleap. "What's going on?" the Sunclan leader growled. Squirrelleap looked around the circle of cats. "Where's my sister?" Squirrelleap meowed frantically. Moonpaw saw a pelt shift in the crowd. Gingerspot stepped away from the huddled cats and approached Squirrelleap.

Moonpaw watched with wide curious eyes as Squirrelleap sighed in relief and pushed her muzzle into her sisters shoulder fur. Moonpaw had to prick her ears to hear Squirrelleap murmur, "I thought I had lost you."

Branchstar narrowed his eyes into slits at Squirrelleap. The Cloudclan cat drew away from Gingerspot and dipped her head apologetically to Branchstar. "You have some explaining to do," Branchstar growled. The brown and white tom sat down and looked at Squirrelleap expectantly. Squirrelleap nodded, "Yesterday six rogues attacked a border patrol I was on by the Sunclan border. One rogue told me she had a friend that had attacked Sunclan and killed a ginger and white she-cat. I thought it was Gingerspot so I freaked out. I'm sorry for bursting into your camp Branchstar."

Branchstar stared at her for a moment before nodding slowly, "I forgive you but I don't want this to happen again, especially if your going to barge over the border with no permission to cross it." Squirrelleap dipped, "Yes Branchstar. It won't happen again." "Gingerspot, you can escort Squirrelleap to the border. Make sure gets across empty pawed," Branchstar growled and turned to walk away.

"Branchstar there is something else you should know," Squirrelleap meowed. Branchstar stopped in his tracks and turned to look at the

she-cat. "Go on," he meowed. Moonpaw held her breath as Squirrelleap took a deep, nervous breath, "Dustfur died fighting against the rogues."

Moonpaw heard gasps from the clan. "We will never forget. He was a brave and loyal deputy," Stormcloud meowed. "He will always be in our hearts," Branchstar added sadly. "Thank you," Squirrelleap meowed with a touch of sadness in her voice.

Squirrelleap turned to Gingerspot. Gingerspot nodded and walked towards the camp entrance and stopped. The ginger and white she-cat turned back and meowed, "Moonpaw why don't you come along." Moonpaw purred and trotted up to her mentor and Squirrelleap.

The three she-cats left the camp as they padded through the forest. "Nightpelt's my mate," Squirrelleap blurted. Gingerspot purred, "That's wonderful. Grayfur is my mate." Squirrelleap looked delighted, "Oh my that's great." Gingerspot ducked her head in embarrassment.

Moonpaw purred. Squirrelleap's happy expression turned to a nervous one. "Hey, what's wrong?" Gingerspot asked curiously. Squirrelleap looked down at her paws, "I'm expecting Nightpelt's kits." Moonpaw wanted to purr when she saw Gingerspot stop and gaze at her sister with excited eyes.

"Oh my Starclan that's amazing! Why aren't you more happy?" Gingerspot meowed. Squirrelleap sighed, "Because Blazeclaw just became Cloudclans new deputy." Gingerspot's excited expression was replaced with fear. "But you know how Blazeclaw can be. If Whitestar died right now Cloudclan would have no chance with Blazeclaw as its leader," Gingerspot meowed.

Moonpaw was confused. What was so bad about Blazeclaw? Squirrelleap nodded, "Exactly and I don't want my kits growing up in a clan with Blazeclaw as their leader." Moonpaw was still confused about how the two sisters were so upset about their brother being deputy. They should be happy for him.

She didn't have time to ask as they approached the border.

Gingerspot and Squirrelleap said there goodbyes to each other and started to head back to their own camps.

Moonpaw trotted beside Gingerspot in silence. "What's so wrong with Blazeclaw?" Moonpaw finally meowed. Gingerspot glanced down at her apprentice, "He is ambitious for power. He wants everything to go his way and he will do anything to make that happen. Moonpaw, Blazeclaw can be a dangerous cat. It would be horrible if Blazeclaw became Cloudclans leader."

Moonpaw finally understood. Blazeclaw could not only be a danger to Cloudclan but also to Sunclan. She shivered. What if Blazeclaw actually became leader? What would happen?

Chapter 37

[image]

Reedpaw!!

"That was very good Moonpaw," Gingerspot meowed with approval. The gray and white she-cat nodded and climbed off of Reedpaw.

It had been a moon since Gingerspot and Grayfur became mates and Dustfur's death, which brought great sadness to both of the warrior clans. But what made Gingerspot the most upset and fearful was that Blazeclaw was Cloudclans new deputy. *If Blazeclaw becomes leader then not only Cloudclan will be in danger, but Sunclan as well.*

Gingerspot was snapped out of her thoughts when Goldenflower tapped her on the shoulder. "I'm sorry, what did you say?" Gingerspot asked. The older she-cat laughed, "It looks like your thinking about something else rather than training. Or could it be *someone* else."

"Its nothing," Gingerspot meowed while her eyes rolled. Goldenflower purred, "Anyways I was saying I think we are done for the day. Lets head back to camp."

Gingerspot nodded and waited for her apprentice to walk up beside her. The cats were soon back at camp. Gingerspot purred when she saw Briarwing's kits jumping around in the shallower snow with Flameheart's kits.

Harekit and Owlkit were so much bigger than the one moon old kits. It suddenly came to her mind that Harekit and Owlkit were five moons old so they would become apprentices in a moon. Gingerspot looked around the clearing. Maybe Snowdrop could mentor one of the two toms. Or Stormcloud. Or even Branchstar.

Gingerspot shrugged it off and started to walk towards where

Grayfur was laying. When a voice summoned her from behind, making her stop in her tracks. "Gingerspot, come join the border patrol," Stormcloud instructed. She sighed and turned around to head towards the border patrol.

Mistyberry and Cloudpaw joined herself and Stormcloud. The patrol set out into the snow covered forest. Gingerspot followed Stormcloud in silence all the way to the border. The forest was quite. The prey was sleeping in their warm dens by now. It was almost dusk.

Gingerspot scrunched up her nose when the sharp scent of Cloudclan flooded her mouth. She and the rest of the patrol spread out to mark the border. She was setting a marker when a russle in the bushes on the other side of the border alerted her.

She rose her head slowly. A heart-beat later a patrol showed itself. Gingerspot growled when she spotted a familiar yellow tabby pelt. Blazeclaw strutted towards her, leaving the rest of the patrol behind him. "What is a kit doing out of the nursery?" he taunted.

"I could ask the same thing about you but I'm afraid you might run back to your daddy and tell on me," Gingerspot replied curtly. Blazeclaw curled his lip back in a snarl. Redfang stepped up beside Blazeclaw and glared at Gingerspot. "Why are we wasting our time on this flea-bag? Lets just get hunting," the tom meowed.

Blazeclaw turned to face his clanmate, "Because I am your deputy and I will go hunting when I want to." Redfang dipped his head in submission and stepped back with the rest of the patrol. Gingerspot looked to her left just in time to see Stormcloud, Mistyberry, and Cloudpaw walk into view.

Once Stormcloud saw the Cloudclan deputy he narrowed his eyes and beckoned with his tail for Gingerspot to get behind him. She obeyed and joined the patrol. "Nice to see you are doing well Blazeclaw," Stormcloud meowed sharply. Blazeclaw snorted and turned around and walked away with his warriors following close behind him.

Gingerspot sighed and followed her own patrol back to camp. She

missed the warm new-leaf sun beating down on her pelt. All she received was the chill of leaf-bare. She glanced at her companions. Everyone of there ribs showed through their pelts. She then glanced at her own pelt. Her fur was long so you couldn't see her ribs as clearly but she stilled showed starvation.

Gingerspot followed close behind Stormcloud as they walked into camp. She sighed as she saw the fresh-kill pile at the center of camp. It was pitifully low with scrawny pieces of prey on top of it.

She quickly spotted a familiar dark gray tabby pelt playing with the kits. As she padded closer she heard the conversation between Grayfur and the kits. "My father told me you were a kittypet before you joined the clan," Beekit sneered. Gingerspot quickened her pace to help Grayfur with the kits rude comments. But the tom answered calmly, "I wasn't a kittypet, I was a loner. That means I had to fight badgers and dogs all by myself with my own four paws."

All three kits gasped in amazement. "Did they tear your fur off?" Breezekit mewed. Grayfur purred, "Maybe a few times but I handled it." Gingerspot help but laugh as she joined him. He glanced at her and laughed as well.

"Hey, I need to talk to you about something," he added after the laughter died down. Gingerspot slightly tilted her head to the side, "Okay, lets go by the tree stump." He nodded and they both said there goodbyes to the kits before turning away and heading towards the tree stump. The tree stump was right outside the elders den which was made by a fallen tree.

She sat down and curled her tail over her paws to listen to her mate. "So you know how I know how to fish," he began. Gingerspot had no idea where this was going but she nodded anyways. "Well I want you and me to teach the clan how to fian so we can have more food," he meowed. "That's a great idea! But the only problem is, is that the river is frozen," she pondered.

Grayfur nodded, "I know but it doesn't have to be. We can easily find the weaker ice and break it to fish." "But how will we do that?" she asked. He shrugged, "I don't know but maybe Branchstar knows." Gingerspot jumped to her paws with excitement, "Then lets

go." Grayfur laughed and they padded away, side-by-side, to Branchstar's den.

Branchstar gazed at the two cats thoughtfully. Gingerspot held her breath as she waited for the Sunclan leader to respond. It seemed like moons before Branchstar finally nodded. "Very well. I will announce it right now," he meowed. Gingerspot gave Grayfur an excited glance before following her leader out into the clearing.

She and Grayfur sat at the base of the Sunrock while Branchstar climbed on top of it. "All cats old enough to catch their own prey gather beneath the Sunrock to hear my words," Branchstar yowled. Gingerspot watched as the clan began to gather around Branchstar, Grayfur, and herself.

Once every cat was settled he began. "Gingerspot and Grayfur have brought to my attention that the river would be good source of food," he meowed. "But the river is frozen! Plus no cat knows how to fish," Smokefur yowled from the back of the crowd.

Murmurs of agreement spread throughout the gathered cats. Branchstar raised his tail for silence. The clan died down quickly. "I am well aware of the ice over the river but I have a plan. Grayfur and Gingerspot know my plan and they know how to fish so they will teach every cat how to hunt fish," the Sunclan leader meowed.

Gingerspot spotted Cloudpaw stand up and face Branchstar with confidence. "What if I don't want to learn how to catch fish? Besides not every cat likes to get there paws wet and eat slimy fish. I prefer mice and squirrels, even if our stock is low," the white apprentice meowed bravely. Branchsar dipped his head in understanding, "Then you don't have to learn if you don't want to. I want every cat that wants to learn how to catch fish raise there tail."

Gingerspot quickly counted the raised tails. Stormcloud, Snowdrop, Bluepaw, and Reedpaw raised their tails. Gingerspot was surprised by how so many cats didn't want to fish. Fishing was fun and mush easier than stalking prey.

She shrugged it off and looked up at Branchstar. "Then it's settled. Those cats will go with Grayfur and Gingerspot tomorrow at dawn to learn how to catch fish," Branchstar meowed. Gingerspot purred as Grayfur licked her ear. "Come on, lets go get some sleep. Tomorrow is a big day," he meowed.

Gingerspot nodded and followed him into the warriors den. She relaxed when she saw their nest. She happily curled up beside Grayfur and fell into a deep sleep.

Chapter 38

[image]

Nightpelt!

Squirrelleap pressed herself against Nightpelt. A wail from the nursery made her flinch. Rosethorn had been in labor since dawn and it was now sunhigh. Nightpelt rapped his tail around her comfortably.

Then the screeches and wailing stopped. Blazeclaw glanced to the nursery but didn't move a muscle. Squirrelleap bared her teeth at the tom before padding into the nursery. Cherrystem and Rainshine stood over Rosethorn.

The brown queen had four tiny bundles of fur beside her belly. Squirrelleap purred and layed down in her nest at the far side of the den. Rosethorn looked exhausted but she still had enough strength to glance at Squirrelleap. "Where's Blazeclaw?" she rasped. "He is out in the clearing," Squirrelleap responded evenly.

Rosethorn sighed and flopped her head back into her nest. "Why don't you start naming them," Rainshine urged. Rosethorn looked to a dark brown tabby tom-kit, "He can be Tigerkit." Then she moved to a ginger tabby she-kit, "She can be Brightkit."

Squirrelleap moved her gaze to the remaining two kits. She was astonished to see that both she-kit looked exactly alike. Both were ginger and brown. Rosethorn seemed to notice too when she meowed in a panicked voice, "How will I tell them apart?" Cherrystem eyed the twin kits. "I think you should wait until their eyes open. Maybe they will have different eye colors," the medicine cat meowed. Rosethorn shook her head, "No, I can't wait that long. They might die before then."

Squirrelleap watched in silence as the queen pointed to the bigger

she-kit, "She will be Willowkit. Her sister will be Leafkit." Cherrystem and Rainshine purred and exited out of the den. Rosethorn glanced down at her kits before falling asleep.

Squirrelleap layed in her nest quietly. She glanced at her belly. It had grown big and Rainshine had predicted she was due in a moon. She sighed and rested her head on her paws. She closed her eyes and tried to sleep.

When sleep never came she huffed and climbed to her paws. She pushed her way through the vines hanging over the nursery. Nightpelt was proudly gazing at Hollypaw as the clan began to gather beneath the Great rock. "What's going on?" Squirrelleap meowed curiously as she neared her mate.

He purred and glanced at Hollypaw, "Hollypaw is becoming a warrior." Squirrelleap purred and sat down beside Nightpelt. "Hollypaw will you please step forward," Whitestar yowled.

Squirrelleap purred with amusement when the mostly black tortoiseshell she-cat bounced up to Whitestar. "I, Whitestar, leader of Cloudclan call upon my warrior ancestors to look down upon this apprentice. She has trained hard to understand the ways of your noble code and I commend her as a warrior before you. Hollypaw, do you promise to uphold the warrior code and to protect your clan even at the cost if your life?"

Hollypaw nodded, "I do."

"Then by the powers of Starclan I give you your warrior name. Hollypaw from this day forward you will be known as Hollyfoot. We honor your hunting skills and loyalty as we welcome you as a full warrior of Cloudclan," Whitestar touched his nose to her head. Hollyfoot licked his shoulder before turning to face her clanmates.

"Hollyfoot! Hollyfoot! Hollyfoot!" Squirrelleap joined in with the clan yelling the new warriors name. Hollyfoot puffed her chest out with pride.

"You trained her well," Squirrelleap meowed to Nightpelt. His yellow eyes lit up with pride for is former apprentice. Squirrelleap's

pelt started as Blazeclaw walked towards her. *What does he want now?*

She braced herself for a harsh comment but all she got from him was, "Hey." Squirrelleap was so confused and utterly shocked she couldn't find the words to answer him.

"Have you seen my kits?" he asked. "Every cat in the clan has seen them besides you," she growled. Blazeclaw ducked his head, clearly embarrassed. "Yeah, I know I just was scared to see them," he meowed. Squirrelleap sat down and glared at him, "Well right now you are showing the whole clan that you don't care about your own kits."

Blazeclaw looked down at his paws. Squirrelleap was so confused why he was even talking to her. And why has none of his comments been harsh or mean? "If I were you I would go apologize to Rosethorn and go see your kits. She didn't know where you were so she had to name them all by herself," Squirrelleap meowed with an edge to her voice.

For a second she saw a glint of anger in his amber eyes but it quickly disappeared. He nodded a farwell to her before padding away to the nursery. Squirrelleap jumped when she felt a tail touch her shoulder. She turned to see Nightpelt giving her an affectionate look.

"You look exhausted," he meowed. Squirrelleap leaned against him and nodded, "I am. Carrying around these kits is very tiring." Nightpelt purred and guided her to the nursery. She licked his cheek before padding into the nursery. The warm smell of milk filled her senses as she made her way to her nest.

Blazeclaw was gazing down at his kits happily. Rosethorn was now awake and telling him each kits name. Squirrelleap watched him closely. Once his mate told him about the twins he scowled. "They will be no use to the clan if no one can tell them apart," he meowed with disgust.

"What ever they will be we will love them no matter what," Rosethorn meowed. Blazeclaw lashed his tail before walking out of

the nursery. Squirrelleap felt bad for Rosethorn. She had to take care of her kits all by herself since Blazeclaw was of no help.

Rosethorn stared after him. Squirrelleap was surprised when the brown she-cat turned to look at her. There was a great amount of sorrow in her green eyes. "Squirrelleap, I trust you to keep a secret for me," Rosethorn began. Squirrelleap nodded, "Sure what is it?"

"You have to promise me if Blazeclaw becomes leader you must take my kits to Sunclan," Rosethorn meowed. "But why? Blazeclaw won't become leader any time soon, Whitestar has many moons to come," Squirrelleap gasped.

Rosethorn shook her head, "I know Blazeclaw's plans. He is ambitious. He will do anything to become leader. He told me that Whitestar has only two lives left. Cloudclan won't be safe anymore. So will you promise to take my kits to Sunclan if that happens." Squirrelleap looked deep into the queens eyes. There was sadness and pleading in the depths of the green pools. "I promise but why did you trust me with this?" Squirrelleap asked.

Rosethorn looked at Squirrelleap's belly, "I assumed you would do the same I was doing." Squirrelleap looked down at her belly. She hadn't thought about that. Maybe it was a good option.

Suddenly gasps and yowls came from outside the clearing. Squirrelleap was about to heave herself to her paws when Nightpelt walked into the nursery.

The black layed his tail on her back comfortably. "What's going on out there?" Squirrelleap asked. "Rogues attacked another patrol. Whitestar lost a life," Nightpelt meowed.

Squirrelleap snapped her head to Rosethorn. The brown queen had fear showing clearly in her eyes. Squirrelleap's fur was rising with tension. "Hey what's wrong?" Nightpelt asked worriedly while smoothing her fur down with his tail. Squirrelleap shook her head, "N-nothing." Nightpelt didn't look convinced but he didn't say anything as he curled around Squirrelleap.

She layed down in the curve of his muscular body. Squirrelleap

rested her head on her paws and closed her eyes. Besides the blackness that blocked her vision she saw a bloody battle that was for sure to come.

Chapter 39

[image]

Stormcloud!!!

Moonpaw watched as practically her whole family walk into camp. Each one had a fish in their jaws. Cloudpaw sat beside her with a disgusted look on his face. "I can't believe they all like fish," he meowed.

Moonpaw shoved her brother playfully, "Relax, they all have found something they clearly like. We have prey we like too, like mice and squirrels." Cloudpaw nodded with agreement, "Yeah I guess. Well the sun is about to set so I'm going to my nest. See you in the morning." Moonpaw waver her tail as he went.

Moonpaw was going to go look for Gingerspot when a big yawn escaped her jaws. Her eye lids suddenly became heavy and exhaustion pulled at her limbs. She yawned once more before turning to the apprentices den.

Her nest was close to the middle of the den between Cloudpaw's and Reedpaw's nest. She sighed and flopped down into the soft mossy bedding. Soon sleep pulled her into a peaceful darkness.

_____

Moonpaw was awoken from a paw prodding her in the ribs. She grunted and opened her eyes. She was shocked when she saw a cat with stars in their pelt standing over her. "Berrysplash, what am I doing here?" she meowed, knowing right away who this starry cat was.

The brown she-cat moved back to let Moonpaw get to her paws. "Your here because your too mouse-brained to realize how special

you are and now I have to explain everything to you. Moonpaw, the challenge I warned you about is almost upon the clans," Berrysplash growled.

Moonpaw looked at the she-cat with confusion, "I know you told me about the challenge and how I'm special but why can't I just figure it out myself? I mean the threat can't be that big." "Because we don't have much time left Moonpaw and this threat could tear apart the two warrior clans," a voice meowed from nearby.

Moonpaw whirled around to see a large ginger tabby tom. "Who are you?" Moonpaw asked in a suspicious voice. The tom purred, "I'm Firestripe. Father to Berrysplash and Lionfur and brother to Goldenflower." Moonpaw gaped with amazement. "How have I not heard of you?" she breathed. Firestripe purred, "Because Goldenflower has not spoken of me. No one has."

"Okay nice to see you two getting along but we have bigger things to focus on," Berrysplash meowed impatiently. Firestripe nodded and looked into Moonpaw's eyes, "Moonpaw your special because you have a power no other cat has and you have a special destiny."

"What do you mean?" she asked. "You can't get hurt in battle, Moonpaw," Firestripe announced.

Moonpaw felt like the whole world under her paws just shifted. She felt light headed as her heart raced. "I know this is a lot to take in but that's why there is two other cats in the clans to help you complete your destiny," Berrysplash soothed.

Moonpaw couldn't face the Starclan warrior. Fear and shock held a tight grip on her whole body. But she managed to choke out, "Who is the voice that speaks to me when I fight?"

"I am Moonpaw. I had to help guide you along the right path," Firestripe meowed. Moonpaw looked up at the tabby tom. She wanted to ask more but the Starclan cats began to fade.

"No! Berrysplash! Firestripe! Please come back," she yowled in panic. "Don't worry Moonpaw. We will always be with you to help guide you," Berrysplash assured before disappearing into the air.

Moonpaw sat down heavily. She looked at the spots where the Starclan cats had just sat. For some strange reason there were tiny sparks where the places they sat. Moonpaw gasped when a strong wind picked them up and carried them away.

Moonpaw stared after them, wondering what it could mean. When she turned back she saw a new scene before her. A lush green forest surrounded. The sweet scent of sap on the trees and the russle of prey nearby soothed her.

But something caught her eye. Her head snapped around to see a plump squirrel hop up to her. This was the strangest thing she had ever seen. *Does this squirrel not know that I'm a cat or what?*

She raised her paw to kill the tiny animal when something urged her to not. Moonpaw felt the need to look at the squirrel closer. She strained hard to see that it was a ginger squirrel with a beautiful long fluffy tail.

Something inside her told her that it meant something. *I mean its just a plain old squirrel. There's nothing special to it.* Then realization hit her. Starclan was showing her the two cats who would help her. *I know exactly who I need to find!*

Chapter 40

[image]

Branchstar!!

Gingerspot stretched out beside Grayfur. For the first time in a moon, the sun was out and shining brighter than ever. It felt good to feel the heat warm her pelt even if the snow under her numbed her paws.

Grayfur was fast asleep beside her. The sunhigh sun was bright. Gingerspot pricked her ears when she heard russling outside the camp walls. A moment later a patrol padded into camp with Branchstar in the lead.

The Sunclan leader immediately leaped gracefully onto the Sunrock. "Let all cats old enough to catch their own prey gather beneath the Sunrock to hear my words," he yowled.

Gingerspot looked down at her mate. His peaceful form and the slow rise of his chest almost put her in a trance. But the meeting Branchstar was calling sounded important. She nudged him sharply with her shoulder. Grayfur opened his eyes sleepily. "What's going on?" he yawned.

"Branchstar is calling for a meeting," Gingerspot meowed. Grayfur grunted as he got to his paws. They walked over to the Sunrock and looked up at Branchstar.

"I have scented rogues on our territory near the Cloudclan border. But I'm sure you all know that by now," he began. Gingerspot nodded with agreement. "I have come to a conclusion that these rogues are planning something. Patrols have only found their scent by the Cloudclan border. Ivyleaf and I will be going to speak with Whitestar about this crisis at dawn," Branchstar meowed.

Gingerspot shifted nervously as yowls of protest erupted through the clan. "Why worry about Cloudclan? Let them deal with their own problems and we will deal with ours," Smokefur growled. "Yeah, and what if the rogues attack you and Ivyleaf on the way to Cloudclan's camp. Then what will you do?" Bluepaw meowed.

Branchstar raised his tail for silence. "The rogues are effecting both clans so it is both clans concern. And I will have four warriors posted on the border so if me and Ivyleaf run into trouble then they will hear the fighting and they will come help," he instructed.

Gingerspot nodded and watched as the clan went off to do their daily routine. She turned to face Grayfur when Moonpaw dashed over to her. "Come with me," Moonpaw meowed with wide eyes.

Gingerspot didn't have time to refuse as Moonpaw ran out of camp. Gingerspot raced after her apprentice.

Gingerspot almost fell straight on her muzzle when she tripped over a tree root. Brambles pulled on her fur and snow crunched underneath her paws.

Gingerspot realized where they were going when the strong scent of Cloudclan and rogues hit her nose. But instead of stopping to not cross the border Moonpaw ran straight through it.

Gingerspot slowed to a halt and stared in disbelief at her apprentice. "Do you have bees in your brain? Why in the name of Starclan did you just completely ignore the border! I've taught you way better than this," Gingerspot growled. Moonpaw stopped in her tracks and looked back at the ginger and white she-cat.

"I need to talk to you and Squirrelleap. Its urgent," she meowed. "Can't it wait. The gathering is tomorrow, you can talk to us then," Gingerspot meowed. Moonpaw shook her head, "No It can't wait, now come on before its too late."

Gingerspot growled under her breath before racing over the border after Moonpaw. The pines smelled different than the oaks. They had a sweet sappy scent that seemed to give her a headache.

She almost ran into Moonpaw when the small cat slammed to a stop. Gingerspot hissed with annoyance. She looked around her surroundings and saw they were right outside the Cloudclan camp.

"Do you smell her?" Moonpaw asked. Gingerspot opened her mouth to taste the air. "She is close by," Gingerspot meowed. Moonpaw padded over to the Holly Tunnel and peeked inside. "Hide! A patrol is coming," she meowed.

Gingerspot grabbed Moonpaw shoved her under a brambke bush. She quickly crawled in after her. Gingerspot held her breath as the patrol padded by. Her breath hitched in her throat when one cat stopped. Moonpaw tightly closed her eyes.

"You guys can come out now," a familiar voice meowed. Gingerspot sighed with relief. She crawled out from under the bramble bush to face Squirrelleap. "What are you doing here?" Squirrelleap growled. "What are you doing out of the nursery?" Gingerspot pointed with her tail to Squirrelleap's belly.

Squirrelleap opened her mouth to reply when Moonpaw cut her off, "Ok now that you are both here we need to go to a quiet spot to talk." Squirrelleap glanced at Gingerspot before nodding and leading them away.

It wasn't long before they emerged into a nice little hollow. Gingerspot sat beside Squirrelleap and gazed at Moonpaw expectantly. Moonpaw took a deep breath and told them about her dream last night. Gingerspot listened intently as the small cat told them about what Berrysplash told her and how she had a special power. "There was this cat named Firestripe. Turns out he's Lionfur's father and Goldenflower's brother. Anyways they told me this threat is almost upon the clans," Moonpaw meowed.

"What threat?" Squirrelleap meowed. Gingerspot thought hard about this. "We have two things to look at. Maybe the threat is the rogues. Or maybe its Blazeclaw," Gingerspot meowed. "I haven't told any cat but about two moons ago I saw Blazeclaw talking with six rogues. I thought it was nothing so I didn't say anything but then I heard about the rogues that attacked Sunclan and I knew it was them," Squirrelleap meowed.

"What if Blazeclaw is working with the rogues?" Moonpaw gasped. Squirrelleap and Gingerspot exchanged worried glances. "Well we found our threat," Gingerspot growled. "Ok but Moonpaw, why did you need to talk to us?" Squirrelleap meowed.

Moonpaw looked at the two sisters, "Berrysplash gave me a prophecy moons ago. She said 'Between the clouds and the sun there will be fire. A blazing fire that will tear apart the forest. But if the moon shines bright enough then the clouds and the sun will forever exist in peace and the blazing fire will be no more. But the moon cannot do it alone. It will need help from two cats that will help defeat the blazing fire.' Then, last night after Berrysplash and Firestripe faded away a ginger squirrel hopped up to me. It was like it didn't know what a cat could do. Then it hit me. It was a 'ginger' 'squirrel.' I knew it had to be Gingerspot and Squirrelleap."

Gingerspot stared at the young with astonishment. "So Starclan chose us for a reason. I mean obviously they sent you a sign," Squirrelleap meowed. Moonpaw nodded, "Yes. But in the prophecy it mentions a moon and a blazing fire. The moon is definitely me and I would think the blazing fire is Blazeclaw." "I agree but I also have one more question. Why were me and Squirrelleap chosen to help you?" Gingerspot asked curiously.

"My destiny and both of your destinys cross paths very soon. We have the same goal and the same reason why Starclan chose us. Our destiny and mission is to defeat Blazeclaw," Moonpaw meowed confidently.

Gingerspot looked at her sister. The dark russet ginger she-cat was shifting with excitement and nervousness. "When do we strike?" Squirrelleap meowed. Moonpaw looked to the sky. The sun was now lower than it was when Gingerspot left camp. Moonpaw turned her attention back to the two sisters and meowed, "We will know when the time comes."

Characters part 5

Sunclan:

Leader: Branchstar - white tom with brown paws, ears, and tail-tip

Deputy: Stormcloud - light gray tom with black stripes

Medicine cat: Ivyleaf - black and white she-cat with green eyes

Warriors:

Smokefur - dark gray tom with a short stubby tail
Snowdrop - white she-cat with black spots on her pelt
Goldenflower - white and ginger she-cat (Reedpaw)
Mistyberry - gray and cream she-cat (Cloudpaw)
Gingerspot - long furred ginger and white she-cat (Moonpaw)
Lionfur - yellow tom (Bluepaw)
Grayfur - dark gray tabby tom

Apprentices:

Bluepaw - blue-ish gray she-cat
Cloudpaw - white tom
Reedpaw - black tom
Moonpaw - gray and white she-cat

Queens:

Flameheart - dark ginger she-cat (Harekit - tan and white tom, Owlkit - brown tom)

Briarwing - brown and white she-cat (Breezekit - sandy colored tom-kit, Beekit - yellow tabby tom with one white paw, Fernkit - light brown she-kit with a white tail-tip)

Cloudclan:

Leader: Whitestar - large white tom

Deputy: Blazeclaw - yellow tom with light ginger stripes

Medicine cat: Cherrystem - red-ish brown she-cat with black spots on her pelt

Rainshine - gray she-cat

Warriors:

Mouseears - brown and white she-cat with small ears (Fishpaw)
Thorntail - gray and white tom
Nightpelt - black tom
Redfang - red-ish brown tom
Hollyfoot - mostly black tortoiseshell she-cat

Apprentices:

Fishpaw - cream colored tom

Queens:

Rosethorn - brown she-cat (Tigerkit - dark brown tabby tom-kit, Brightkit - ginger tabby she-kit, Willowkit - ginger and brown she-kit with amber eyes, Leafkit - ginger and brown she-kit with green eyes)

Squirrelleap - dark russet ginger she-cat

Chapter 41

[image]

Whitestar!!

Squirrelleap yowled in pain. Half a moon had passed since the talk with Moonpaw and Gingerspot. Now she was in labor.

"Your doing great," Rainshine soothed. Squirrelleap yowled once more as a strong ripple shook her body. Nightpelt sat beside her and stroked his tail along her back. "Ok, Squirrelleap only push when I tell you to," Cherrystem meowed.

Squirrelleap slightly nodded to the medicine cat. She was panting heavily and her pelt was sticky with sweat. Cherrystem put her paw on Squirrelleap's belly, "One, two, three, push!" Squirrelleap screeched as she pushed as hard as she could.

She relaxed when she heard a splat. "Is it ok?" she croaked. "You have a healthy tom," Rainshine purred. Squirrelleap purred loudly as the tiny bundle of fur was set beside her belly. The kit wailed before crawling towards her belly and started to suckle.

Squirrelleap thought she was done until another powerful wave shot pain through her body. "You have one more Squirrelleap. Just hang in there," Cherrystem meowed.

Squirrelleap clenched her teeth as a wave shook her body. "Your almost done," Nightpelt murmured. Cherrystem placed her paw on the queens belly, "Ok get ready Squirrelleap. One, two, three, push!"

A yowl escaped her jaws as she once more pushed as hard as she could. "You have a beautiful she-kit," Cherrystem purred. Squirrelleap was panting as hard as ever now. "Oh their beautiful Squirrelleap!" Nightpelt purred.

Squirrelleap looked down at her belly. There was the tom-kit and the small she-kit suckling at her belly. She purred and looked up at Nightpelt. He had pure joy in his eyes as he gazed at his kits. "Well we will leave you all alone now," Rainshine purred.

Squirrelleap waved her tail to the medicine cats as they left the nursery. "What are we going to name them?" Nightpelt asked. Squirrelleap looked down at her kits. The tortoiseshell she-kit and the black and ginger tom-kit suckled peacefully at her belly.

"The tortoiseshell she-kit can be Dawnkit," she meowed. Nightpelt purred and looked to the tom-kit, "He can be Shadekit." Squirrelleap purred and looked down at the two kits. Nightpelt licked her ears before rapping himself around her. At this moment all that mattered was her kits.

"When will they open their eyes?" Brightkit squeaked. "In a few sunrises," Squirrelleap replied to the curious kit.

It had been two sunrises since Squirrelleap gave birth to her kits. Every cat had come to see them except for Whitestar and Redfang. What surprised her the most was that Blazeclaw came to see her kits.

"Brightkit, leave Squirrelleap alone," Rosethorn meowed. Brightkit glanced at the kits before scampering over to her mother and littermates. "I can't wait to play with them," Willowkit squealed.

Squirrelleap purred. Willowkit climbed out from under Rosethorn's tail and tackled her twin, Leafkit. "Hey, get off of me!" Leafkit yowled. "You two need to be quiet," Rosethorn meowed. Willowkit climbed off of Leafkit.

Suddenly, Willowkit began to cough loudly. Leafkit jumped with shock at the loud noise. Squirrelleap watched with concern as Rosethorn hurried I've to her kit. Willowkit hadn't stopped coughing yet when her mother reached her. "Leafkit, will you please go get Rainshine or Cherrystem?" Rosethorn meowed in a calm voice.

The kit nodded and raced away. "I'm fine Rosethorn," Willowkit choked out through her coughs. "We'll see when the medicine cats get here," the brown queen meowed.

A few moments passed before Rainshine padded into the nursery with Leafkit at her side. "Let me see what's going on," Rainshine meowed. Rosethorn nudged Willowkit towards the medicine cat. Rainshine sniffed the kit. Then she put a paw on her forehead.

"She has a fever and maybe whitecough but I will get her herbs right away," Rainshine meowed. Before Rosethorn could nod a cough interrupted her. Every cat turned to see Brightkit coughing heavily as well.

"May I please take them both to the medicine cat den," Rainshine meowed. Rosethorn looked at her two sick kits. "Yes," she meowed. Rainshine nodded and rapped her tail around the two she-kits. "Come on, lets go to the medicine den," the medicine cat urged.

"I will come and visit my babys," Rosethorn meowed after her kits. A moment later Rainshine, Brightkit, and Willowkit were gone.

Rosethorn dropped her head sadly and flopped down into her nest. Tigerkit and Leafkit curled up beside her and fell asleep.

Two more sunrises passed since Willowkit and Brightkit had gotten sick. Rainshine had told them it was whitecough and she was doing her best to cure it. Rosethorn has paced outside the medicine den every day since then.

Squirrelleap shifted slightly as her kits moved. To her surprise she saw Shadekit open his eyes half ways. "Tigerkit, quickly go find Nightpelt," Squirrellepa meowed urgently. The kit nodded and raced away.

It felt like moons before Nightpelt dashed into the nursery. "What's wrong? Are the kits ok? Are you ok?" he meowed in a worried voice. Squirrelleap chuckled, "I'm fine and the kits are more than fine. Shadekit is opening his eyes."

Nightpelt gasped excitedly and sat beside her. Shadekit looked up at Nightpelt. It looked like a struggle but he finally opened his eyes all the way. "Who are you?" the kit squeaked. "I'm your father, Nightpelt," the black tom purred.

Shadekit cocked his head slightly. "If your Nightpelt and my mother is Squirrelleap then who is Dawnkit?" the kit mewed. Squirrelleap purred, "Dawnkit is your sister."

Shadekit looked beside him to see his sister with her eyes half way open. "Come on, Dawnkit. Hurry up so we can play," Shadekit meowed. Dawnkit growled quietly before opening her eyes.

"Hello my darling," Squirrelleap purred. Dawnkit looked around curiously. "What is this place?" she mewed. "Its the nursery," Nightpelt meowed.

"Can we go out of the nursery?" Dawnkit squeaked. Squirrelleap shook her head, "No your too..." She was cut off by gasps and yowls of horror outside the nursery.

Both Squirrelleap and Nightpelt jumped to there paws and poked their head outside the nursery. Squirrelleap was shocked at what she saw.

Blazeclaw and Redfang were carrying the limp body of Whitestar. "Can I see Squirrelleap?" Shadekit squeaked from inside the nursery. "No," she called back to him.

Her kits could not see the thing she saw. A long bloody scratch was sliced through Whitestar's throat. He eyes were open, staring at nothing. His jaw was cracked open slightly, showing he wanted to say his last words but it was too late.

Blazeclaw and Redfang set the body in the middle of the camp. The rest of the patrol, Mousears and Fishpaw, came stumbling into the camp. Blazeclaw looked around the gathered cats.

"As you all know three sunrises ago Branchstar came to talk with Whitestar about the rogue conflict. Whitestar turned him down because Cloudclan doesn't need help from Sunclan mouse-brains.

We are here today now to mourn the loss of the second leader of Cloudclan and our beloved friend. He was a good father to me and a good leader to the clan. When I get back from the Moonpool tonight we will take what is ours!"

A few cats yowled proudly into the sky. While Squirrelleap looked at Nightpelt with horror. "We will figure this out," he murmured.

Squirrelleap felt every hair on her pelt stand up. "Nightpelt, I promised Rosethorn that is like take her kits to Sunclan if Blazeclaw became leader," Squirrelleap meowed. The black toms eyes widened, "You what? How are you supposed to keep that promise?" Squirrelleap looked down at her paws, "I don't know."

I decided to change Blossomkits name to Dawnkit so sorry for the confusion if you have already read this chapter.

Chapter 42

[image]

Blazeclaw!!

That night would always haunt her for the rest of her life. That night brought horror and fear to the two warrior clans.

Squirrelleap watched with wide eyes as Blazeclaw padded into camp with his head held high. Rainshine followed close behind him. The sun was just rising as the tom leaped onto the Greatrock. "Let all cats gather beneath the Greatrock for a clan meeting," he yowled.

Squirrelleap sat at the entrance to the nursery next to Nightpelt. The kits were fats asleep as the cats began to gather. Rosethorn came and sat beside Squirrelleap.

Blazeclaw looked at every cat beneath him, "I am now Blazestar." Some cats yowled the new leaders name, including Rosethorn. Squirrelleap didn't not.

"I have made plans to solve our problem. And the solution is to join with the rogues and then take over Sunclan. Cloudclan would then be the most powerful clan in the forest," he meowed. Squirrelleap gasped and glanced at Nightpelt. He had a level face but she knew what he was thinking.

She was even more horrified when she heard yowls of agreement come from the clan. "Well then say hello to your new clanmates," Blazestar yowled.

Squirrelleap leaped to her paws as a wave of rogues burst into camp. She regonized Oreo and the ginger tabby tom she met when she accidentally killed his friend, Sass.

"Also I must appoint my deputy. Redfang will be my new deputy," Blazestar announced. The red-ish brown tom had a wickedly happy look in his eyes.

"Are you completely mouse-brained? Cats will die if you do this. Do you just love to see cats suffer?" Squirrelleap snarled. Blazestar gave her an icy glare, "I thought you would be fine with this. I mean, you did kill one of my recruits." "That was an accident. But I'm now thinking it was worth it since Dustfur and Whitestar are now dead. And that's it, these rogues killed Dustfur and Whitestar," Squirrelleap yowled back.

"If you are unhappy with my choice you may leave. I mean even if you run to your sister I will still hunt you down and kill you," Blazestar meowed. Squirrelleap lashed her tail furiously, "Then I will." Nightpelt rushed into the nursery and grabbed their two kits by the scruff.

As she padded to the entrance of the camp she looked back at the clan. "Does any cat want to join me?" she meowed.

Hollyfoot stepped out from the crowd and padded up to her side. Squirrelleap nodded to the she-cat.

Not another cat stirred. Squirrelleap turned to walk away when she heard paw-steps behind her. She turned and saw Tigerkit and Willowkit bouncing up to her. "We want to go with you," they meowed. Rosethorn came running out of the nursery. "No my dears, stay with me," Rosethorn meowed.

"Let those flea-bags go. They won't make good warriors so why waist prey on them," Blazestar growled.

"Because they are our kits! You shouldn't say stuff like that about your kits," Rosethorn spat. "I never wanted them, so there not mine," he replied. Rosethorn snarled at him and stomped off to the nursery.

Squirrelleap rapped her tail around Rosethorn's kits and pulled them close to her. "We are leaving," Squirrelleap growled. She turned and lead her tiny group into the snowy pine forest.

They were half way to the border when she heard a cat following them. "Who's there?" she yowled into the trees. A heartbeat later Fishpaw came into the open.

"I snuck out of camp so I could come with you," he meowed. Squirrelleap dipped her head to him gratefully.

Fishpaw bounded up beside them as they made their way to the border.

Squirrelleap sighed sadly as she crossed over onto Sunclan territory. "Once Blazestar is gone we will come back," Nightpelt soothed.

Squirrelleap didn't know how to believe him. She looked back at her home. It was quiet and peaceful. But it wasn't her home anymore.

She sighed and padded into the oak forest with her companions at her side.

Chapter 43

[image]

Hollyfoot!!

Moonpaw fidgeted beside Bluepaw. When she woke up this morning she had a nagging feeling that something big would happen today. But the only big thing that happened today was Harekit and Owlkit had become apprentices.

Snowdrop didn't want an apprentice so she aloud Grayfur to be Harepaw's mentor. Ivyleaf had taken Owlpaw as her apprentice. The two toms had bounced around camp happily.

Harepaw and Grayfur had just left camp while Owlpaw and Ivyleaf had disappeared into the medicine cat den.

"Why are you fidgeting so much today Moonpaw?" Bluepaw growled with an annoying tone. "I have this feeling that something big is going to happen today," Moonpaw meowed.

Bluepaw sighed, "Nothings going to happen." Moonpaw didn't answer her sister. She couldn't help it. Something was going to happen.

Moonpaw suddenly pricked her ears as the camp entrance russled. Bluepaw just sat there looking at the camp entrance. A moment later Harepaw and Grayfur padded back into camp.

Flameheart rushed over to the two quickly. "Why are you two back so early? Is there something wrong?" she meowed urgently.

Grayfur looked behind him. Moonpaw leaped to her paws to see who it was. Through the leaves and ferns Squirrelleap padded into the camp. Hollyfoot and Fishpaw followed close behind with two small kits beside them and Nightpelt bringing up the rear with two

tiny kits in his jaws.

"What's going on?" Gingerspot meowed worriedly as she rushed up to her sister. Squirrelleap touched her tail-tip to her sisters shoulder before padding away towards Branchstar. The she-cat whispered something to the Sunclan leader. He gave her a confused nod.

Squirrelleap dipped her head and leaped onto the Sunrock. "Please gather around to hear some important news," Squirrelleap yowled. Moonpaw trotted up to Gingerspot and sat next to her as the clan began to gather.

"Yesterday Whitestar died from a rogue attack," she began. Gasps of horror and sadness erupted through the clan. Moonpaw could tell that Gingerspot didn't feel the same way every other cat felt. "But that's not the worst part. Blazeclaw is now Blazestar. He has made an alliance with the rogues and has brought them into Cloudclan's camp. Blazestar has an evil and horrifying goal. He wants to take over Sunclan and rule the forest," Squirrelleap announced.

Moonpaw and Gingerspot gaped with horror. "I have brought myself and a few of my clanmates to ask for help to defeat Blazestar and his rogues. You all may not agree but we want our home back and we will do anything to get it back," she meowed. Sunclan yowled with approval.

"You may stay here as long as you want and yes, we can discuss battle plans," Branchstar meowed. Squirrelleap dipped her head gratefully, "Thank you Branchstar. Me and my clanmates appreciate that."

As the meeting was dismissed Moonpaw and Gingerspot ran up to Squirrelleap. "I think is what Berrysplash is warning us about," Moonpaw blurted. The two sisters nodded with agreement. "We need to strike soon," Squirrelleap growled.

"But how will we know when to strike?" Gingerspot asked. "I have a spy in Cloudclan's camp," Squirrelleap meowed. Moonpaw was surprised by how quickly the she-cat took action, "Who is the spy?" "Rosethorn," Squirrelleap replied calmly.

Gingerspot's eyes widened with disbelief. "I made a promise to her to bring her kits to Sunclan if Blazestar became leader. And I promised to do so and I did. She felt bad so she offered to be my spy," Squirrelleap meowed. "But isn't Blazestar her mate?" Moonpaw meowed.

"Yes, but she thinks her kits won't be safe with him and she's right. That's why when I brought her kits I also brought Nightpelt and my two kits," Squirrelleap explained. Gingerspot gasped excitedly, "You had you kits! Can I please see them?"

Squirrelleap purred and beckoned with her tail for Nightpelt to bring the kits over. The black gently placed his kits on the ground. "They opened their eyes yesterday," Nightpelt purred proudly.

Moonpaw looked down at the tiny bundles of fur. A ginger and black tom-kit trotted up to her and sniffed her paw curiously. "Who are you?" he mewed. Moonpaw purred, "I'm Moonpaw."

A tortoiseshell she-kit bounced up beside her brother, "Hi Moonpaw I'm Dawnkit and this is Shadekit." Moonpaw purred, "Well its nice to meet you both."

The kits bounced up to their mother and father. "They are delightful Squirrelleap," Gingerspot purred.

Squirrelleap sat and rapped her tail around her kits, "They were aren't they. I'm kits sad that they have to go through this at such a young age." Nightpelt had a sad expression on his face as well.

"We will defeat Blazestar and then they can go back to a normal life," Moonpaw assured. Squirrelleap sighed heavily, "I hope so."

Chapter 44

[image]

Rosethorn!!!

Gingerspot yawned as she padded out of the warriors den. Stormcloud sat under the Sunrock assigning cats to patrols. Squirrelleap and Briarwing sat outside the nursery to watch their kits play in the snow. Rosethorn's kits, Tigerkit and Leafkit, sat by themselves watching the other kits play.

Gingerspot looked back to Stormcloud. He had organized every patrol so she didn't have to join one. She looked back at the kits. Gingerspot sighed and trotted up to Tigerkit and Leafkit. Leafkit moved closer to Tigerkit as she approached.

"Hi kits! You probably don't know me but I'm Squirrelleap's sister, Gingerspot," Gingerspot greeted the two older kits. Tigerkit and Leafkit seemed to relax at her greeting. "I'm Tigerkit and this is Leafkit," Tigerkit meowed. Gingerspot sat beside them and looked at the other kits playing in the snow.

"Why don't you go play with Shadekit and Dawnkit?" Gingerspot meowed. "They are two moons younger than us. We don't want to play with younger kits. Besides we miss our sisters alot," Leafkit answered.

Gingerspot felt bad for the kits. Squirrelleap had informed her that Rosethorn's other two kits, Brightkit and Willowkit, had come down with whitecough before they left.

"Well the only way to not miss your sisters is to go play with the other kits. I mean Breezekit, Beekit, and Fernkit are only a moon younger than you two," Gingerspot meowed. Leafkit glanced at her brother. He didn't look convinced but they got to their paws and trotted over to the other kits.

Gingerspot watched as Breezekit broke away from his play fighting to greet Tigerkit and Leafkit. The kits looked way happier than they were just sitting by themselves. Tigerkit launched himself at Breezekit, sending them both rolling in the snow.

Gingerspot's stomach growled. Squirrelleap purred as she padded up to her. "Sounds like you haven't eaten," Squirrelleap meowed. Gingerspot purred, "Yeah I haven't." "Well I have to meet Rosethorn at the border soon, do you want to come and maybe we can hunt while were out in the forest?" Squirrelleap asked.

Gingerspot nodded, "Sure." They padded side-by-side as they made their way through the forest. Gingerspot stopped suddenly when she saw a water droplet fall from a nearby leaf. "What's wrong?" Squirrelleap stopped beside her.

"Leaf-bare is coming to an end," Gingerspot announced. "Well at least we have one good thing to look forward to," Squirrelleap replied curtly.

Gingerspot sighed and followed her sister to the border. The forest was quiet as they sat down with their tails rapped around their paws.

It seemed like moons before a brown pelt bounded over to them. "Hello Rosethorn," Gingerspot greeted the brown she-cat. Rosethorn ignored greeting and gave Squirrelleap a serious stare, "Blazestar is planning to attack Sunclan tomorrow night at moonhigh when every cat is asleep."

"That's too soon!" Gingerspot meowed. "We will figure it out but first we have to talk to Branchstar about battle plans," Squirrelleap meowed. Rosethorn unexpectedly looked down at her paws, "Willowkit and Brightkit died this morning."

Gingerspot watched sadly as Squirrelleap's tail drooped. "How did they die? I thought Rainshine was taking care of the whitecough," Squirrelleap meowed. Rosethorn lashed her tail furiously, "Rainshine said they needed more time to take in the herbs but Blazestar didnt want to waist herbs and prey on his sick kits, so he had Rainshine and Cherrystem stop giving them herbs."

Gingerspot gasped. How could a cat be so evil? What shocked her the most was that Blazestar did that to his own kits. "Squirrelleap, when the attack begins I promise to be on Sunclans side the whole time. And can you promise me one more thing before I go," Rosethorn meowed.

Squirrelleap nodded, "What is it?" "Promise me you will kill Blazestar when the time comes," she meowed quietly. Gingerspot saw Squirrelleap's eyes widened but she nodded, "I promise."

Rosethorn nodded, "Thank you, now I must be on my way before some cat realizes I'm gone. Goodbye and take care of my kits for me." "We will," Squirrelleap meowed as the brown she-cat raced away.

Squirrelleap turned to walk back to camp. "What are we going to do now?" Gingerspot asked curiously. Squirrelleap stared ahead, "We are going to speak with Branchstar."

Chapter 45

[image]

Fishpaw!!

"Blazestar and his rogues will attack at moonhigh tomorrow night," Squirrelleap meowed urgently. Branchstar stared at his paws for what seemed like moons. "Branchstar, we need to hurry," Gingerspot urged from beside Squirrelleap.

"I'm thinking," he growled. Squirrelleap kept her mouth shut while the Sunclan leader thought about what to do. Finally Branchstar raised his head to look at Squirrelleap, "If Blazestar is trying to be sneaky with attacking us at night while cats are asleep in their nests then we have to be sneakier. We don't have to be asleep but we need to act like it."

"What do you mean?" Squirrelleap asked, totally confused. "Once Blazestar and his companions are in the camp he would have to send a signal to attack. But we will be awake in our dens waiting for a signal to attack. If we attack first we would have the element of surprise. Blazestar would be utterly shocked and surprised along with his rogues," Branchstar explained.

Squirrelleap glanced at Gingerspot. Her sister was nodding with agreement to Branchstar's plans. "Very well but we should assign cats to each den now," Squirrelleap suggested.

Branchstar nodded and padded past them into the clearing. Squirrelleap and Gingerspot followed close behind him. The tom leaped onto the Sunrock and yowled, "Let all cats gather beneath the Sunrock for a clan meeting."

Squirrelleap sat beside Gingerspot and watched the clan gather around the Sunrock. "I have been informed that Blazestar and his rogues will be attacking tomorrow at moonhigh," he began. Gasps

and murmurs followed his words. Branchstar raised his tail for silence and then started agian, "But me and Squirrelleap have come up with a plan. Blazestar and his rogues will be thinking we are all asleep in our nests but we won't be. Once they gather in the middle of the camp I will give the signal to attack. There will be a certain group in every den which will leap out and attack once told to. Right now we are assigning groups to dens."

Squirrelleap watched as the clan nodded with understanding and they looked up at Branchstar expectantly. "Reedpaw, Mistyberry, Cloudpaw, Goldenflower, and Fishpaw will be in the apprentices den," Branchstar instructed. The five cats nodded and padded away towards the apprentices den.

"Briarwing, Lionfur, Nightpelt, Snowdrop, and Smokefur will be in the nursery to protect the kits," Branchstar meowed. Squirrelleap watched her mate glance at her before padding away to the nursery. "Squirrelleap, Gingerspot, Moonpaw, Grayfur, and Harepaw will be in the warriors den," Branchstar meowed.

Squirrelleap and Gingerspot padded side-by-side to sit in front of the warriors den. "Myself, Stormcloud, Bluepaw, Hollyfoot, and Flameheart will be in the medicine den," Branchstar finished.

She watched as every cat padded away to their temporary dens. "I want every cat to go practice battle moves. Mentors, only focus on battle moves for the apprentices. And Grayfur, since Harepaw is a new apprentice stay by his side through the whole battle," Branchstar meowed.

The dark gray tabby tom nodded and moved closer to is apprentice. Branchstar dipped his head to every cat, "Meeting dismissed."

Gingerspot and Moonpaw turned to Squirrelleap. "Do you want to come train with me and Moonpaw?" Gingerspot asked. Squirrelleap purred, "I would love to."

The three she-cat's trotted out of camp and into the forest. They were soon at low dip in the earth in the middle of some clustered trees. Squirrelleap sat at the side of the hollow and watched Gingerspot turn to Moonpaw. "Pretend we are in a real battle,"

Gingerspot meowed.

Moonpaw got into a crouch and the two began to circle each other. Gingerspot had a gleam of impatience in her eyes so she leaped at Moonpaw. The apprentice tryed to side step to the left but Gingerspot managed to hook her shoulder with a paw. Moonpaw stumbled and fell to the ground.

Gingerspot tryed to leap on top of the small cat but Moonpaw rolled away. She jumped to her paws quickly and sliced a sheathed paw across Gingerspot's flank.

The she-cat turned around quickly to tackle the apprentice but Moonpaw was too fast. The gray and white she-cat was now on Gingerspot's back. Gingerspot growled and dropped down to her paws. Moonpaw was caught underneath the heavier she-cat as she rolled over.

"Do you give up?" Gingerspot growled. Moonpaw looked like she couldn't breath but she managed to nod. Gingerspot rolled over so the apprentice to climb to her paws.

"That was very good Moonpaw!" Squirrelleap praised. Moonpaw was panting hard but she dipped her head gratefully. "I think Moonpaw is going to do great," Gingerspot praised. "Well I'm starving, why don't we get back to camp and get something to eat?" Squirrelleap suggested.

Gingerspot and Moonpaw both nodded and they walked back to camp. Squirrelleap led the way into camp. She was half way to the fresh-kill pile when she saw tiny bundles of fur run up to her.

"Look Squirrelleap, Nightpelt let us go out of the nursery," Shadekit meowed. "I see that," she purred. "When are you going to come back to the nursery, Squirrelleap?" Dawnkit mewed.

Squirrelleap licked her daughters head fondly, "I will sleep with you two tonight. But tomorrow night I can't." Shadekit and Dawnkit squealed happily before running back to where her father sat outside the nursery.

"Why don't you get something to eat and go sit with Nightpelt," Gingerspot urged. "Are you sure? I can sit with you two if you want," Squirrelleap meowed.

Gingerspot shook her head, "We're fine now go on." Squirrelleap dipped her head to her sister before grabbing a small mouse and trotting over to Nightpelt. The black tom purred as she sat down beside him. "The kits told me that you were spending the night in the nursery with them tonight," Nightpelt meowed.

Squirrelleap took a bite of her mouse and nodded, "I am." Nightpelt moved closer to her and rapped his tail around her body. "Well then I might as well come and join y'all to keep you warm," Nightpelt meowed.

Squirrelleap purred and leaned against him, "That would be nice." The whole world seemed to float around them as they watched the sun set.

Chapter 46

[image]

Bluepaw!!

Moonpaw fidgeted nervously as the sun began to sink into the horizon. Every cat was bristling with excitement and anticipation to sink their claws into a rogues pelt.

Today was the day. The day blood would be spilled and lives would be taken. It didn't have to be this way but Blazestar wanted a fight, so that's exactly what they were going to give him.

Branchstar had told the clan that this battle wasn't going to be fought with clan rules. If they wanted to survive they had to fight to kill. Every rogue they come across should be dead by the time the battle is over.

Moonpaw wasn't ready. She was as nervous as ever. Her fur spiked with fear and nervousness. Gingerspot realized and smoothed down her fur calmly with her long fluffy tail. "Hey, you are going to do just fine. Just remember what our plan is," she meowed.

Moonpaw nodded but didn't stop fidgeting. This morning Squirrelleap had taken Gingerspot and Moonpaw out of camp to discuss what they were going to do.

"Our main goal should be to kill Blazestar," Squirrelleap had cut straight to the point. "But he has nine lives," Gingerspot had meowed.

"We need to make sure we give him a wound he can't recover from," Moonpaw suggested. The two sisters had nodded with agreement.

Branchstar's yowl cut through Moonpaw's thoughts. "Its time," the

Sunclan leader meowed. Every cat took that time to say a few words to their loved ones in case it was their last.

Moonpaw walked over to her littermates and touched noses with each one of them. "After this battle I'm going to be very disappointed if I don't get my warrior name," Reedpaw joked. They all laughed before padding away to their assigned dens.

Moonpaw walked over to her mother and father. They both licked her head affectionately. "Whatever happens I want you to know we will always be with you and your littermates," Snowdrop meowed. Moonpaw purred, "I know."

She said her goodbyes and walked back to the warriors den. Squirrelleap had just gotten back from talking with Nightpelt and her kits when Moonpaw arrived. "Are you ready?" Gingerspot asked. Moonpaw nodded, "As ready as I'll ever be."

They all walked into the warriors den and crouched in the middle of the den. Moonpaw saw Grayfur pressed up against Gingerspot. Harepaw was beside her slightly shaking. "Hey, your going to do just fine," she soothed.

The tan and white tom gave her a grateful look before staring at the entrance to the den. Moonpaw realized she was slightly shaking as well. She had to remind herself that everything would be ok. At least she hoped it would be.

It was now moonhigh and she could just see outside the den. Moonpaw could barely see the brown and white pelt of Branchstar as he crouched close to the entrance to the medicine den.

Moonpaw stiffened as Gingerspot and Squirrelleap both pricked their ears. "Everyone, don't move a muscle," Gingerspot whispered. Moonpaw held her breath beside Harepaw.

Her breath caught in her throat when she saw a familiar yellow tom with ginger stripes walk into camp. Harepaw quietly whimpered but Moonpaw slapped her tail across his mouth before he could

make another sound.

Behind Blazestar came a wave of rogues and some of Squirrelleap's clanmates. Moonpaw saw Redfang beside Blazestar, his head raised up proudly.

What could he possibly be proud of? He and the rogues are about to kill countless cats, Moonpaw thought. Blazestar stopped in the middle of camp like Branchstar predicted. "Does every cat know what their doing?" Blazestar growled to his companions in a hushed voice.

Moonpaw glanced at Branchstar. The Sunclan leader didn't move a muscle. *What is he waiting for? He better hurry it up or we're all gonna die,* Moonpaw growled to herself.

Gingerspot and Squirrelleap were also staring at Branchstar. Suddenly, Branchstar waves his tail side to side. "That's the signal," Squirrelleap growled.

Moonpaw jumped to her paws as she saw Branchstar leap out of his hiding spot. "Sunclan, attack!" he cryed.

Blazestar and his rogues screeched with surprise at the unexpected attack.

Moonpaw raced forward beside Gingerspot and Squirrelleap. She yowled fiercely as she sunk her claws into the first cat she saw. To her disadvantage the cat was a muscular brown tabby tom. He was heavy and hard to do any real damage to.

But she managed to knock him of his paws. Moonpaw felt satisfied when the tom huffed as he hit the ground. "Are you really going to let a kit like me so that to you?" Moonpaw taunted him.

When an enemy was angry and irritated they become reckless and thats when you could really do some harm. The tom had an angry flare in his eyes. Moonpaw braces herself for him to through her off. And that's exactly what he did. She squealed as she was thrown off the bigger tom.

Moonpaw was just in time to see him leap towards her but she quickly rolled out of his way. She sprang to her paws and as quick

as lightning slashed her unsheathed claws across his flank.

She heard him yowl in pain before she jumped onto his back. "Dang I thought you were bad but I didn't think you were this bad," Moonpaw whispered in his ear. He snarled and tryed to throw her off. Moonpaw dug her claws into his shoulders for dear life.

He growled at the pain and stopped. She took that time to swipe at his ears and back. The tom screeched and rolled over. She stumbled off of him just in time to not get squished under his weight.

The rogue was now on his back with his belly exposed to the sky. Moonpaw ran forward and sliced her claws through his belly fur. The tom screeched once more before getting to his paws and stumbling out of camp.

Moonpaw watched as the tom left a fresh blood trail out of camp. She felt a tail touch her shoulder lightly and turned to see Gingerspot. "Blazestar and Branchstar just went out of camp. This is our time," Gingerspot meowed urgently. Moonpaw took a deep breath and followed Gingerspot to the entrance to the camp.

As they ran by she caught a glimpse of Cloudpaw and Reedpaw fighting side-by-side. Until Cloudpaw was hit hard in the head by a swinging paw and fell to the ground. Moonpaw stopped and stared at her brother. "Moonpaw, we have to go," Gingerspot was beside her urging her to move.

"But Cloudpaw..." she trailed off as Gingerspot grabbed her scruff and hauled her out of camp. "I have to go help him," Moonpaw growled.

Gingerspot set her down once they were outside the camp walls. "I'm sorry Moonpaw but we have to go. Squirrelleap is waiting on us," Gingerspot growled.

Moonpaw glanced one more time back at the camp before racing after Gingerspot. They were on the far side of the camp walls when Gingerspot stopped and hide underneath a holly bush. Moonpaw was surprised to see Squirrelleap waiting there for them beneath the small bush.

"Branchstar and Blazestar are right there," Squirrelleap whispered. Moonpaw narrowed her eyes and saw Blazestar and Branchstar circling each other. "How did you know we were going to attack?" Blazestar growled furiously.

Branchstar shrugged, "I've been a clan leader longer than you have been alive Blazestar. This kind of attack does not surprise me." Blazestar bared his teeth at the older cat, "Your full of mouse-dung Branchstar. You can't fool me. I know you have a spy in my camp so tell me who it is or I will kill you right now."

Branchstar snorted, "Fine you caught me, I am clever enough to have a spy in your camp walls. But I can't tell you who it is." Blazestar snarled, "Well if your not going to tell me then I have no choice but to kill you."

"Let me see you try," Branchstar laughed. Right before Blazestar could charge at Branchstar Squirrelleap leaped out of her hiding place. Moonpaw followed her but didn't even pause to look at Blazestar.

She yowled and threw all of her weight onto the muscular tom. Moonpaw gasped with fear as Blazestar laughed evily and threw her off of him with one paw.

"Now, Squirrelleap I always knew you would take after Flameheart and be completely mouse-brained but this. You bring a kit to stop me. I think its quite amusing," Blazestar purred. Moonpaw immediately jumped to her paws when the big tom took a step closer to Squirrelleap.

Then out of nowhere Gingerspot hurdled herself through the air. The ginger and white she-cat was so powerful in her leap that once she hit Blazestar he fell to the ground.

Moonpaw bounded forward but Squirrelleap held her back. "You stay here, I will help her," Squirrelleap instructed. Moonpaw growled under breath and Squirrelleap sent to go help her sister.

But Moonpaw knew deep in her belly that Squirrelleap wouldn't make it in time. Blazestar easily flipped over on top of Gingerspot

and pinned her to the ground. Moonpaw had to lean forward to hear Blazestar whisper into her mentors ear, "I won't kill you right now because then you would die with little pain. You see that huge scratch on your belly. That will kill you and it will be slow and painful."

Moonpaw follows his gaze to see a long cut through Gingerspot's belly. Blood was oozing out of it, causing the grass around her to turn dark red. Gingerspot looked up at him with horror.

Squirrelleap must have heard Blazestar's words because she yowled furiously and threw Blazestar off of Gingerspot. Moonpaw saw in the corner of her eye Branchstar run back to camp to help the rest of the clan. Squirrelleap immediately pulled Gingerspot off to the side of the hollow and crouched beside her.

Moonpaw held her breath as Blazestar stumbling to his paws. The tom glanced towards Squirrelleap and Gingerspot and smiled. *He's going to kill Squirrelleap!* Moonpaw thought with horror. *You have to go help her. They need you Moonpaw,* a voice whispered in her ear.

"I can't do anything. Blazestar is way stronger than me," Moonpaw meowed to herself. *You can do this. Squirrelleap and Starclan believe in you. I will be with you the whole way. Do it for Gingerspot,* the voice urged gently.

Moonpaw looked up at the battle scene. Blazestar was slowly creeping up behind Squirrelleap. The she-cat didn't even notice him as she leaned over her injured sister. *Do it for Gingerspot.*

She took a deep breath and crept around the hollow. Just like creeping up on prey she made sure she was down wind from Blazestar. The tom had his back faced to her as he got closer to Squirrelleap.

I have to hurry. Moonpaw crept forward on light paws. Her tail was straight behind her. She couldn't mess this up. If anything went wrong, her and Squirrelleap's lives were on the line.

Moonpaw was now in leaping distance but she couldn't strike just yet. She held her breath as Blazestar hovered over Squirrelleap. The

tom raised his paw high into the air above the she-cat.

Blazestar was about to bring his paw down onto Squirrelleap's throat when Moonpaw made her move. She leaped onto his back and immediately got a strong hold on his wide shoulders.

Moonpaw didn't hesitate as she bit down as hard as she could into the back of his neck. Blazestar yowled with surprise before falling to the ground.

Squirrelleap stood protectively over Gingerspot and looked down at Blazestar. The powerful tom was twitching as a pool of blood formed around him. Moonpaw looked down at her paws. They were covered with blood. Blazestar's blood.

Squirrelleap finally tore her surprised gaze away from Blazestar's unmoving body to Moonpaw. Moonpaw brought herself to look directly at Squirrelleap. The she-cat had a look of surprise and shock.

"You saved my life and you killed Blazestar," Squirrelleap breathed. "It was my destiny. This was the destiny that had been awaiting us all," Moonpaw meowed.

Squirrelleap looked back at Gingerspot. Moonpaw padded past her to crouch beside her mentor. "Please don't leave me Gingerspot," Moonpaw meowed while pushing her muzzle into the she-cat's long fur.

Gingerspot had a sad and exhausted expression on her face. "I'm trying not to. But I can hear Starclan calling for me," she croaked. Blood was still oozing out of her huge wound. All of the cobwebs in the forest couldn't heal it.

Squirrelleap pressed her paws into the wound. "Your going to be fine Gingerspot. We will get you to Ivyleaf and you won't die," Squirrelleap meowed with pure panic in her voice.

Gingerspot weakly looked up at her sister. "I've lost too much blood, Squirrelleap. Ivyleaf can't heal me now," she meowed.

Squirrelleap shook her head violently, "No, I refuse to believe that.

Starclan will not take you today." "Squirrelleap, its too late," a meow made Moonpaw jump.

She whirled around to see two starry cats padding towards them. "You can't take her. Not today. She can't die like this," Squirrelleap growled to the Starclan cats. Moonpaw recognized them as Berrysplash and Firestripe.

Berrysplash gazed down at Gingerspot sadly. "Its time," the Starclan cat meowed sadly. Gingerspot looked up at Squirrelleap and Moonpaw. "I will always be with you two. Tell Grayfur I love him and tell Branchstar I wish for him to make Moonpaw a warrior," Gingerspot managed to meow between pants.

Moonpaw felt her heart break into a million pieces. Gingerspot's breathing had gotten shallow and her eyes were tired and showed she was in pain.

"I will miss you Gingerspot," Moonpaw meowed. Squirrelleap had her face buried in her sisters long fur. "Please don't leave me Gingerspot," Squirrelleap cryed out. Gingerspot looked at her sister, "I'm sorry Squirrelleap. I will always be with you."

Moonpaw sat beside Gingerspot as her friend took a deep breath before falling still. Moonpaw just wanted to curl up in her nest and hoped that when she woke up it was all just a bad dream.

She gasped as she saw a starry figure step out of Gingerspot's now life-less body. Moonpaw and Squirrelleap jumped to their paws to examine the new Starclan cat.

Gingerspot looked healthy and strong with not a single wound on her pelt. Berrysplash and Firestripe were beside the she-cat looking at Squirrelleap and Moonpaw. "Bring Blazestar's and Gingerspot's bodies back to camp. We will follow you back. We have business to attend," Gingerspot meowed.

Moonpaw looked at Squirrelleap. The she-cat was still in shock about the death of her brother and sister on the same day. "Lets get to it," Moonpaw meowed. Moonpaw grabbed the scruff of Gingerspot's body while Squirrelleap grabbed Blazestar.

They stumbled back to camp on tired paws. The three Starclan cats following close behind them.

Moonpaw held her breath as they walked into camp. The battle was still going when they walked into the bloody battle field.

Squirrelleap immediately dropped Blazestar and leaped onto the Sunrock. "Blazestar is dead!" Squirrelleap announced.

Moonpaw braced herself as the last of the rogues ran out of the Sunclan camp. She looked around to see which cats were alive or dead. She saw the dead body of Redfang and many rogues shrewn across the camp.

Horror struck her when her gaze landed on the dead body of Cloudpaw. She dropped down into a crouch and started to shake violently.

In the background she heard gasps from the surviving cats as the Starclan cats joined Squirrelleap on the Sunrock. Moonpaw managed to stand up once more and look around as the cats began to gather. Branchstar stumbled up to Squirrelleap to stand beside her.

Moonpaw heard a yowl of horror. She glanced around to see Grayfur staring at the starry figure of Gingerspot. "No!" he cryed and fell to the ground in a heap of sorrow.

Many cats went to comfort him as Gingerspot jumped gracefully down from the Sunrock. She floated up to him and touched her nose to his head. "I will always be with you my love. Just don't forget me," she purred.

Grayfur looked up at his mate. "Please don't leave me Gingerspot," he meowed. Gingerspot looked deep into his eyes and sighed, "I must Grayfur, but I will always be with you. I can't help that this is my destiny."

I start school tomorrow!😩😩😩😩

Chapter 47

[image]

Cloudpaw!!

Gingerspot gazed into Grayfur's emerald green eyes. They showed sorrow and love all at once. She hated to leave him. She hated Blazestar for making her have to leave him. But this was what it is. She couldn't change it now.

Her heart broke when she saw Flameheart stumble up to her new form with wide eyes. "This can't be happening. My daughter can't be dead," her mother moaned. Gingerspot dipped her head to her mother sadly, "I'm so sorry Flameheart. Blazestar killed me but I put up a fight, just like you taught me."

Flameheart hung her head sadly and went to go sit with Grayfur, who was sending sad cries into he sky. Gingerspot looked back at them before leaping onto the Sunrock once more.

When she died she felt a wave of knowledge hit her. She could see what lay in store for the clans. She could see it all. And that's why she, Berrysplash, and Firestripe were here.

As Gingerspot joined her starry companions she caught a glimpse of Moonpaw. Her former apprentice was staring off at something with huge horrified eyes.

Gingerspot followed her gaze to see a white lump of fur at the paws of Snowdrop and Stormcloud. *Cloudpaw! I can't believe the rogues could do such a thing. He would have made a wonderful warrior. Speaking of Cloudpaw, now that he is dead why isn't he here with us?*

Gingerspot turned to ask Berrysplash when a yellow pelt ran up to

the brown she-cat. "Is it really you Berrysplash?" Lionfur meowed in disbelief. Berrysplash purred, "Yes Lionfur its me." Lionfur purred and touched noses with his sister before running back to Briarwing and his kits.

Gingerspot opened her mouth again to talk but Berrysplash stood up on the Sunrock and called for a clan meeting. She sighed and sat beside Berrysplash and watched the clan gather. Squirrelleap jumped down beside Branchstar to look up at the Starclan cats. Gingerspot felt her sisters amber eyes burn into her starry pelt.

"As you all know Blazestar is dead. I would like to personally say thank you to Moonpaw for doing us all a great deed," Berrysplash began. Gingerspot looked to Moonpaw. She was still staring at her dead brother. Most of the clan gasped at the surprising announcement.

Berrysplash raised her tail for silence before continuing, "And I'm sure you know that your current deputy, Redfang, is dead as well. So your all probably wondering who will be Cloudclans leader." Sunclan and the remaining of Cloudclan murmured with agreement.

"Well Starclan has chose your next leader of Cloudclan," Berrysplash meowed. Gingerspot saw Mouseears, Thorntail, Hollyfoot, Fishpaw, Rosethorn, Cherrystem, Rainshine, Nightpelt, and Squirrelleap prick their ears. "Your new leader of Cloudclan will be, Squirrelleap!" Berrysplash yowled.

Gingerspot purred as she saw Squirrelleap's eyes widened to the size of tiny moons. "W-what! Why me?" Squirrelleap stuttered. "Because you have shown yourself many times worthy of being a clan leader," Gingerspot meowed.

Squirrelleap stared for a long time at Gingerspot before dipping her head respectfully to the Starclan cats, "I am honored to hold the position of Cloudclans leader." Both clans yowled with approval. Many cats, including all of Cloudclan, came to congratulate Squirrelleap.

"Squirrelleap, you must go now if you want to get to the Moonpool while the moon is still in the sky," Gingerspot meowed in the

darkness. Squirrelleap nodded and turned to Cherrystem and Rainshine. The two medicine cats were already beside the she-cat.

Squirrelleap turned to Nightpelt and yowled, "Will you please take Cloudclan back to our rightful camp. Also, Branchstar I want to thank you for offering us a place to stay while Blazestar's rein." Branchstar dipped his head to Squirrelleap, "It was my pleasure. May Starclan light your path."

Gingerspot watched as Squirrelleap, Cherrystem, and Rainshine ran out of the camp. Nightpelt quickly gathered Cloudclan together and followed after her.

Gingerspot looked to Berrysplash. She was already fading into the air. It was time for them to go. Grayfur looked at Gingerspot with panic and ran over to her. "I will always love you no matter what," he meowed. Gingerosot purred and touched her nose to his, "And I will always love you. Please watch over Flameheart and Moonpaw for me. Now go on, I will always be with you."

The last thing she saw before fading away completely was Grayfur's beautiful emerald green eyes.

Chapter 48

[image]

Cherrystem!!

Squirrelleap padded beside Cherrystem and Rainshine through the forest. All she cared about now was getting to the Moonpool as fast as she could. She noticed Cherrystem glancing at her pelt many times.

"Is there something wrong?" Squirrelleap eventually meowed. "You have many wounds. Why don't we stop for a few moments so I can patch them up real quick," Cherrystem offered. Squirrelleap shook her head, "We don't have time. Anyways they don't even hurt."

But that was a lie. Every time she moved her wounds stung more and more. She desperately wanted to get this over with so she could go back to her home in the pine forest. Hopefully Nightpelt got the clan there safely.

Squirrelleap pushed it away as the springy more grass changed to rocky terrain. She grunted with effort as she climbed onto rocks. Squirrelleap wanted to just lay down and give up but she couldn't. Her pads stung and her muscles ached.

Finally they reached the top of the hill. Squirrelleap felt her paws slip into the paw shapes of countless cats before her. She gaped in astonishment as her gaze landed on the Moonpool.

The pool whimpered in the bright light of the moon. Both Cherrystem and Rainshine purred with amusement. "Lets get started," Cherrystem meowed.

Squirrelleap followed them to the edge of the Moonpool and layed down. She watched closely as the two medicine cats lapped gently

at the pool before curling up to sleep. Squirrelleap followed their moves. She lapped at the pool gently.

The shockingly cold water mad ever shiver before blackness surrounded her.

Squirrelleap opened her eyes to see she was still at the Moonpool. Cherrystem and Rainshine were standing off to the side of the pool. "Why are we still at the Moonpool?" Squirrelleap meowed. Her meow echoed around the enclosed area.

"Just wait," Cherrystem purred. A moment later ranks of starry cats were lined around the Moonpool. Squirrelleap looked around the gathered cats. She tryed to find Gingerspot but a tortoiseshell she-cat blocked her.

"Don't worry, you will see her soon," the she-cat purred. Squirrelleap looked at the newcomer. She didn't look familiar at all. "I am Tulipfrost. You have probably never heard of me but I am Whitestar's sister," the tortoiseshell she-cat meowed.

"I didn't know Whitestar had a sister," Squirrelleap meowed with surprise. Tulipfrost purred and touched noses with her, "I give you the life of wisdom. Use it well young one."

Squirrelleap clenched her teeth as the life surged through her. It burned like fire. *Is it supposed to hurt this much?* She shrugged it off as a familiar dusty brown tom padded up to her. "Dustfur!" she purred. He dipped his head before also touching noses with her, "I give you the life of trust. Always trust in everything you do and trust in your clanmates."

Squirrelleap wanted to yowl as the pain pierced her skin but she couldn't. As Dustfur walked back to the ranks of cats Squirrelleap stood their panting. The next cat was Cloudpaw. "I give you the life of loyalty. Always be loyal to your clan," the young tom touched his nose to hers.

Squirrelleap clenched her teeth once more. Next was Berrysplash. "I give you the life of courage. Never be afraid Squirrelleap," she meowed and touched noses with her. Once again Squirrelleap

wanted to yowl in pain.

Her eyes softened as two young kits trotted towards her. "Willowkit, Leafkit," Squirrelleap meowed sadly. Willowkit was first and have her the life of patience. This life didn't hurt as bad as the other ones. Leafkit gave her the life of humility, which hurt quite a bit.

The next cat was a tall gray tom. "I am the first leader of Cloudclan, Cloudstar," he meowed. Squirrelleap returned the greeting politely. "I give you the life of pride. Have pride in the things you do," Cloudstar touched his nose to her nose.

Squirrelleap felt her fur rise as the life flowed through her. Cloudstar stepped back a nd was replaced by sandy colored she-cat. "My name is Sunstar, the first leader of Sunclan," the she-cat meowed. Squirrelleap braced herself as she touched her nose to the ancient leaders nose.

"I give you the life of a mothers love for her kits," Sunstar meowed. Squirrelleap felt the fierce surge of love for her kits burn though her veins.

As Sunstar stepped away a painfully familiar cat took her place. "Gingerspot," Squirrelleap meowed sadly. Gingerspot rubbed her cheek against Squirrelleap's before touching noses, "I give you the life of compassion. Be compassionate of what you believe in." This life brought no pain, only peace.

As Gingerspot stepped back the Starclan cats, Cherrystem, and Rainshine began to cheer her new name. "Squirrelstar! Squirrelstar! Squirrelstar!"

Squirrelstar looked to her medicine cats. They were giving her happy looks. Then she turned to her sister. Gingerspot gazed at her proudly from her spot in the ranks of Starclan cats.

"Remember Squirrelstar, follow the ways of your nine lives and I will always be with you," Gingerspot meowed. Squirrelstar took one last look at her sister before awaking beside the Moonpool.

As Squirrelstar padded into the Cloudclan camp cats came to greet her immediately. One of the first ones was Nightpelt and her kits. "Your back!" Shadekit squealed. Squirrelstar purred and rubbed her muzzle against Nightpelt's.

When she looked into the sky she saw the sun peeking through the clouds. Shades of orange and pink were cast across the sky. Squirrelstar pushed through the crowd to leap onto the Greatrock.

She puffed her chest out with pride as her clan began to gather below her. "I received my nine lives and I am now Squirrelstar," she announced. The clan began to chant her new name. "Squirrelstar! Squirrelstar!"

Squirrelstar raised her tail for silence. "Now I must pick a deputy. I had little time to think about this but I have made my decision. Nightpelt will be Cloudclans new deputy," she yowled.

Nightpelt purred and looked up at her with pride. "I will do my best to serve my clan well," he meowed. Squirrelstar dipped her head to him before turning back to the rest of the clan.

"I also have one more announcement. Fishpaw, will you please step forward," she meowed. The cream colored tom looked surprised to be called forward. "Fishpaw, you showed your loyalty to Cloudclan through the whole battle and I want to honor that. I, Squirrelstar, leader of Cloudclan call upon my warrior ancestors to look down on this apprentice. He has trained hard to learn the ways of your noble code and I commend him as a warrior to you. Fishpaw, do you promise to uphold the warrior code and protect your clan even at the cost if your life?"

Fishpaw nodded, "Of course I do."

Squirrelstar purred, "Then by the powers of Starclan I give you your warrior name. Fishpaw from this day forward you will be known as Fishstream. We honor your loyalty and kindness as we welcome you as a full warrior of Cloudclan!" For the first time she touched her nose to his head and he licked her shoulder in return.

Fishstream turned to face the clan proudly. "Fishstream! Fishstream!

Fishstream!" Every cat cat changes for the new warrior. Fishstream puffed his chest out with pride.

Squirrelstar gazed down at her clanmates. Each and everyone of them looked happy. Happy to be back home. Happy to be alive. Happy to have a new leader. Squirrelstar felt happy too. Not only for herself but for the whole clan. Her clan.

Thank you @XxDestinychooserxX for Fishpaw's new name!!

Chapter 49

[image]

Ivyleaf!!

"Let all cats old enough to catch their own prey gather beneath the Sunrock for a clan meeting," Branchstar yowled. Moonpaw dropped to her paws at the clan leaders yowl.

She was just weaving bramble tendrils into the warriors den when Branchstar yowled for a meeting. Bluepaw came to sit beside her to look up at Branchstar.

It had been a moon since the battle. Blazestar was still dead and Squirrelleap was now Squirrelstar. Moonpaw missed Cloudpaw and Gingerspot everyday since that horrible day.

"Moonpaw, Bluepaw, and Reedpaw, please step forward," Branchstar yowled. Moonpaw prickled with surprise. But when she glanced to Bluepaw she knew exactly what was happening. Her sister had her eyes wide open with excitement.

Moonpaw puffed her chest out happily as she padded up to the base of the Sunrock. She spotted Snowdrop leaning her head against Stormcloud while watching her kits proudly.

"I, Branchstar, leader of Sunclan call upon my warrior ancestors to look down upon these apprentices. They have trained hard to learn the ways of your noble code and I commend them as a warrior before you. Moonpaw, do you promise to uphold the warrior code and to protect your clan even at the cost of your life?"

Moonpaw dipped her head to Branchstar, "I do."

Branchstar purred, "Then by the powers of Starclan I give you your warrior name. Moonpaw you will now be known as Moon-" "Wait!"

Moonpaw suddenly interrupted him. Every cat gasped at the rude interruption and looked to Branchstar for his reaction.

Branchstar looked down at Moonpaw and narrowed his eyes into slits. "Yes Moonpaw," he meowed with a slight growl in his voice. "I'm so sorry for interrupting but I have to request something. I would like to choose my warrior name," Moonpaw meowed nervously.

The clan behind broke into ugly murmurs and nasty comments. "Just because you killed Blazestar doesn't mean you have the power to give yourself a warrior name Moonpaw," Lionfur yowled. Moonpaw wanted to forget she ever opened her mouth and just shrink back into the shadows.

Branchstar raised his tail for silence. The clan immediately fell silent and looked up at him expectantly. "Moonpaw, I do not approve of this but I would like to hear your opinion so continue," Branchstar meowed curtly. Moonpaw glanced back her mother.

Snowdrop was still gazing at her proudly from beside Stormcloud. Moonpaw took a deep breath and meowed, "I would like my warrior name to be Moonspot." She watched with relief as Branchstar's gaze softened.

Moonpaw felt fur brush up against hers. She looked beside her to see Snowdrop shading beside her. "Branchstar, I now you don't agree with this but Moonpaw has good reasoning. Please consider it," Snowdrop meowed.

Branchstar hoped down from his place atop the Sunrock and stood before Moonpaw. "Moonpaw, I have never heard such a request and I usually wouldn't agree with it. But after hearing the name you want I will accept it and honor your bold decision. I miss Gingerspot too. But now with half of her name you will always carry her close to your heart," he meowed.

Moonpaw purred, "Thank you Branchstar." Branchstar nodded and touched his nose to her head, "Moonpaw, from this day forward you will be known as Moonspot. We honor your compassion and bravery as we welcome you as a full warrior of Sunclan."

Moonspot licked his shoulder in return and went to go sit beside her littermates. She watched happily as Bluepaw became Bluecloud and Reedpaw became Reedsong.

Moonspot turned to face the clan proudly. "Moonspot! Bluecloud! Reedsong!" As the clan chanted her new name Moonspot felt like she could feel Gingerspot beside her.

Her old mentor would always be with her now and she was finally at peace with what had happened a moon ago. Yes, she missed Cloudpaw and Gingerspot but now she knew that were always with her. No matter what happened she still had Gingerspot beside her.

Also thank you again to XxDestinychooserxX for giving me the name ideas for Bluecloud and Reedsong!

If any of you want to name any of my apprentices just go to another book I made called Next Generation (an apprentice namer). Feel free to give ideas and suggestions!

The End!!

Ok so I really hated for Gingerspot to die but I thought it would make the story a little more interesting.

Anyways, for some of you wondering yes I am making a second book but it won't be called Blazing Darkness book 2. I haven't made the title yet.

But hopefully y'all liked this book enough to go and read the following book. Please, if you have any tips to give or advice feel free to share it. I am always open to new ideas and corrections.

So yeah please go read my next book and my other book called Next Generation (an apprentice namer). Thank y'all for reading!!!❤❤❤